

Update: September 29th. Prologue Complete \o/

[Chapter 1](#) [Chapter 2](#) [Chapter 3](#) [Chapter 4](#)

Page 1

R's Journal

10/11. Cloudy, as if to reflect my current feelings.

I've decided from this day forth to make a record of my travels.

Well, truthfully, it's more like an addendum to the D's Journal. I'll take note of various things, and basically treat this as a personal diary of sorts.

Anyway, the journey I'm heading on this time will be different. There are even more uncertainties. Destination unknown. I'm not even quite sure what I've put myself into.

That's why, I need to keep careful track of my every step.

That's why, this isn't going to be D's Journal.

This is a journal that details my own travels—

In other words, this is R's Journal.



Page 2

But anyway, how did it come to this?

I only wanted to clear away my regrets, but I feel that a long road is ahead of me.

So first I'm going to write down all that has happened up to the beginning of this journal.

That is, my long journey, and after it finally ended.

When I left Tiz and the others, and entered the vast, black chasm alone.

Prologue.0

Page 3

The wind blew calmly across the open sea.

There wasn't a cloud in the sky. The sun risen to nearly its peak. The falling sunlight reflected off the calm surface of the sea, sparkling.

It was a quiet scene. Just a while ago, this sea had been festering, due to the water crystal being overcome by darkness. The wind had stopped, volcanoes erupted, and even the planet's crust transformed. But once light returned to the crystals, those sources of chaos disappeared, and the world was at peace once more.

A single airship set sail through the calm, quiet open air. I stood at the helm of the ship, controls firm in my grasp.

"Hmm. It's been a while since I piloted it, but this ship really isn't that bad," I muttered. A smile spread across my face. The body of the ship, 20 meters long, was soaring through the sky and responding smoothly to my controls.

My name is Ringabel. I was one of the heroes among heroes, along with three others. Together we defeated Ouroboros, the God of Destruction, who aimed to destroy the world.

The airship I piloted was the Eschalot. In the beginning stages of our adventure, the ship served quite useful for transportation. Once we got a hold of the tremendous Grandship however, the Eschalot saw little use.

Page 4

A while ago, the sky stone installed in this ship's engine room was destroyed. This rendered the ship unable to fly. However, after we defeated Ouroboros, we were able to replace the sky stone with one presented to us by the Eternian Central Command. Thanks to that, the Eschalot has been able to take to the skies once more.

This ship, which I once rode alongside my friends, carries only me now. Edea, Tiz, Agnes, even Airy—none of them are here. Though it felt a little lonely, I rode on in silence.

It was not too long ago when I said goodbye to them. On my person as I set off on my new journey was my favorite sword, Masamune, various items stuffed in a pack, and the journal which detailed my entire story.

I'd be lying if I said my departure wasn't painful. But, even with great reluctance, I parted ways with my friends.

Those words still hung in the back of my mind, after all. The ones Sage Yulyana said soon after we defeated Ouroboros.

"You must make a choice with all haste! You are free to return to the world of your birth, or any other you desire," the Sage told us.

The universe contained a multitude of worlds which existed in parallel to each other. They resembled each other greatly, but differed in subtle ways. We had gone on a journey throughout the worlds in order to save them all. And each world was connected by a giant chasm.

The Sage told us that once we had defeated Ouroboros, the chasm would slowly begin to close.

Page 5

If we passed through the chasm, we could go to any world.

We could stay in the world where we fought Ouroboros. We could return to the world in which we were born. We could go back to a world in order to tie loose ends. This is what the Sage told us, and he urged us to make a decision quickly. We decided to go through the chasm to return to the worlds of our birth.

Tiz decided to return to his hometown of Norende, and live a peaceful life.

Agnes headed to the Temple of Wind, in order to fulfill her duty as a vestal of the crystals.

Edea chose to follow in the footsteps of her father, Braev the Templar.

And I—

"I'll go back to where I was born...!"

The world I grew up in isn't the same world as where my friends were going. So I had decided to return to this 'previous world,' not where Edea and the others were born.

With the promise of meeting again six months later, we parted ways. The chances I could truly see my friends again were low. The great chasm was slowly closing, after all. Six months from now, we might not be able to traverse different worlds again. However, even knowing that, I decided to go back to my world.

In the world I was born, Tiz, Agnes, and Edea were all killed by Airy. The man who raised me, Braev the Templar, along with many other comrades in battle, had lost their lives fighting...

Even when I return to that world, most of the people I would want to meet are gone. Regardless, I have to go back there.

Page 6

There are too many things I need to do in that world. To rebuild Eternia, who lost their leader, Braev, and to restore the devastated world. And most importantly—

“...I’ll have to hold funerals for Edea and the others,” I muttered. My chest ached. I spun the ship’s steering wheel to shake off the pain.

--

--I sped up the Eschalot towards the Caldis Region.

I flew over the lush, green kingdom, and before long the giant chasm came into view.

“...Good, it’s still there.”

The chasm, which once swallowed an entire village whole, had by now contracted such that the diameter was about 50 meters. Since Ouroboros had been defeated, the hole will likely continue to shrink.

However, it was big enough for the Eschalot to fit. Theoretically, if I passed through this hole, I should be able to go to the world of my birth.

“It looks like I made it just in time... Alright, let’s go. Back to my world.”

I moved above the hole, and slowly lowered the airship. The ship began to be slowly sucked in.

The lower it sank, the more the darkness enveloped the ship.

Page 7

By passing through this darkness, I can reach whichever world I want. That’s what I had thought, but—

Just then, flashes of light surrounded the ship.

“Hm...? What the?” I frowned as the light pierced the darkness like lightning. A thunderous roar reverberated through the ground and shook the ship violently.

“H-Hey now, what’s going on!? Did something awaken!?”

I had gone through the chasm multiple times by now, but this was a first. In my confusion, I gripped the controls. But no matter how I turned the helm, the ship made no response. The shaking only intensified.

“O-Ohhhh no!? This is bad!”

I knew I was in danger. In a panic, I tried to raise the ship higher. But it was useless. The ship had lost use of all its controls and was shaking wildly as it plummeted into the heart of the chasm.

“Dammit! Has the chasm already reached its limit?! At this rate, the ship will--!” Before I could finish, a tremendous impact coursed throughout the ship.

“Gah!” The ship toppled over as if lightning had struck. I grabbed onto the controls for dear life.

Another collision struck. The controls broke apart, and, no longer having any support, I was launched into the air.

“AAAAHHH!” My scream echoed into the darkness.

Being thrown from my own ship, I fell into the never-ending pitch-black chasm.

Prologue.1

Page 8

When I came to, I found myself in an endless dark abyss.

Lying at the bottom of the darkness, I thought, *Am, Am I... dead...?*

I wasn't sure what happened, but a living person falling into the chasm couldn't be safe. It seemed I wasn't able to reach the other world, and had just died instead.

Hah, what an anti-climactic end... After all I did to defeat Ouroboros and save the world... I smiled weakly

But then, a faint light appeared across the darkness.

Hm... What is that...?

The light gradually grew stronger, eventually reaching me. Looking carefully, I saw a small figure in the light.

The figure fluttered in the light. Was it some kind of butterfly? No, getting a better look at it, it appeared to be a human figure.

Page 9

The human figure was about as small as my palm. It had beautiful wings on its back, and—

Huh!? My breathing stopped. I remember seeing this before. That silhouette with wings. It looked like someone I should have already defeated.

“Wh-Wha.....! Why are you...!?” I asked in a raised voice, and the figure headed towards me.

A faint smile spread across its face—

And I screamed.

.....

“—Agh!” I woke up.

The first thing in sight was the ceiling of some building.

“U-Ugh... Where- where am I..?” I groaned. I was lying down on a bed, my body aching.

I thought I had died falling down the chasm, but it seems I somehow narrowly escaped death. Beside my pillow were my bag and sword.

Page 10

Forget about that, where am I? I thought, looking around. It was just a plain-looking room.

The walls made of wood exuded a warm feeling. Calming sunlight filtered through the windows. I remembered seeing this before. This is the inn I've stayed at multiple times—

"The old man's inn at Caldisla...?" This inn was the starting point of my adventure. Where I met Tiz and Agnes and we decided to journey together. We knew the innkeep, Karl, or "old man," as we called him. He helped us many times on our journey.

"Was I saved by the old man again...?"

If I was in Caldisla again, that probably meant I was able to cross over into another world. I must have fallen unconscious once I hit the ground on the other side of the chasm. And then the old man found me lying over there, and took me in... that's probably what happened.

After my thoughts, I heard footsteps on the stairs. *It's probably the old man*, I thought, sitting up in bed.

I didn't expect who I saw.

"Oh, finally awake, are you? You've been out of it for more than a week."

I was at a loss of words, besides "huh...!?"

It wasn't the old man. But I knew that face.

Page 11

"O-Owen!? Captain Owen!?" I reflexively called out the man's name.

It was Karl's son, Owen. The captain of the guard in Caldisla, and the finest swordsman in the country.

I concluded that if Owen was alive, that must mean this wasn't the world I was born in. Owen gave me a questioning look.

"Hm? How do you know my name? We haven't met before, have we?"

"Huh? Oh, no, we haven't...." I couldn't believe I was saying this.

I probably had met Owen at some point in this world. But he didn't know *me* specifically. I didn't quite know how to put it, but—

Well, a lot of time has passed since then... It wouldn't be unusual if Owen has simply forgotten about me.

It was a little hurtful, but that probably wasn't the case anyway.

In this world, I was living as the Dark Knight of the Eternian forces, Alternis Dim. However, I am no longer Alternis Dim. In terms of social status and personality, it would be fair to say I'm a different person. So it wasn't really necessary to bring up our past meeting.

With that in mind, I answered Owen's question.

Page 12

“No, I don’t believe we’ve met. But I do know about you.”

“Hm? Why?”

“Well, I heard stories about the great, heroic captain of the guard. And I’ve heard a couple things about your appearance, too. So I just assumed it was you.”

“C’mon, you’re embarrassing me, now. I’m just a regular soldier.” Owen gave a bashful smile. He seemed to accept my explanation. Relieved, I spoke again.

“Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ringabel. I just found myself at this inn when I woke up a little while ago. Would you mind telling me what happened?”

“Sure. Eight days ago, I found you lying unconscious at the Norende Ravine not too far from here. So I brought you here.”

“So that’s how I got here. I’m in your debt, Owen.”

“If you want to thank anyone, thank my dad. He was the one that took care of you while you were still asleep.” Owen hesitated before continuing, “by the way, Ringabel... You’re not from Norende Village, are you?”

“No, I’m not. I... came from another country.” To distract from my answer, I changed the topic. “By the way, Owen. Did you see an airship near where I was found? It’s about 20 meters long...”

Page 13

“An airship? What a strange thing to ask. Were you riding one?”

“Yeah, I was traveling across the world on it, but I ran into some trouble on my flight.”

“Oh, I see. So then you fell off and ended up at the ravine. What a disaster.” Owen nodded sympathetically, and then answered my question. “I’m sorry, but I didn’t see anything like it. Not even a piece of a wreckage. Not in the ravine, or anywhere in the vicinity was something like that reported.”

“What!? Don’t tell me it fell in the ocean...!?” I grimaced. I can’t say I didn’t see it coming, but it was still painful to hear. It’ll be hard, if not impossible, to recover the Eschalot if it has sunk to the bottom of the sea. My shoulders fell in defeat.

Owen spoke out to me, “...Cheer up. For such a serious incident, you’re fortunate to still have your life. That might not be much of a consolation, but...”

“No, you have my thanks. At least I’m still alive.”

“Exactly... That’s a lot to be thankful for, compared to what happened to all those people in that tragedy the other day.”

“What tragedy?” I inquired. Owen grew solemn.

“Eight days ago, something unimaginable happened to the village of Norende. The ground suddenly opened up, creating a chasm that swallowed the entire village whole. There was only one survivor.”

Page 14

“A chasm at Norende...!?” I couldn’t believe it. “Wait, hold on. The chasm appeared eight days ago, you say?”

“Y-Yeah. Same day I found you.”

“...!?” Something wasn’t right.

Something about Owen’s answer bothered me. I searched through my handbag to find the problem, and took out my journal.

D’s Journal—my prized notebook from when I went by Alternis Dim. I spared no detail in recording my long journey with this.

I hurriedly flipped through the pages, looking for the right passage. It was a record of the day the chasm opened in this world.

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10/3

Today was another peaceful afternoon, the same as any other...

Owen was at the palace since morning. I was enjoying a cup of the innkeep’s coffee.

It happened in an instant. I felt as if someone was set to plunge a knife into my back. I turned, and looked outside the window.

The northern sky... was on fire in a flash of pure white.

The inn shook. Was this an earthquake!?

The entire city trembled.

The innkeep moaned about a set of heirloom teacups breaking. I had my doubts that teacups would be the worst of the damage.

Another flash lit the sky to the northwest.

When I went outside, I saw some injured people, but the city and palace stood unharmed.

Another flash lit the sky to the northwest. Over the Norende Plateau, perhaps...

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Page 15

October third. It happened on that date. I inquired further to make sure.

“...Owen. This will sound random, but what is the date today?”

“October eleventh. Why, is something wrong?” It was a casual answer, but it hit me like a ton of bricks.

How strange...!

Owen’s words and my journal’s records didn’t agree on one part of this story.

In this world, the chasm appeared on October third. Today is the eleventh, which means only eight days passed since the chasm’s opening.

That's what is so strange. Later in the journal, it's written that I entered the Holy Pillar and traveled to another world on *June sixteenth, the following year*.

It's as if I'd gone back in time... Then it clicked.

I'd gone back in time. It was entirely possible. Up to now, when I've entered the Holy Pillar and traveled to another world, I had gone back in time. By passing through the giant chasm into another world, the same phenomenon seems to occur.

To confirm my suspicions, I asked Owen, "I have one more question. I don't remember when, but a giant pillar of light piercing the sky appeared somewhere in this world. Do you know when that was?"

"A pillar of light...? What are you talking about? I've never seen or heard of such a thing."

"You're saying no one noticed that ginormous pillar of light? This is a port city. There had to have been at least rumors about it..."

"No, I've heard nothing. Surely if such a thing showed up, there would be an uproar about it."

Page 16

"...!" That answer was the deciding blow. There was no mistaking it now. Something went wrong when I passed through the chasm, and I ended up being thrown back in time.

How could that be... I didn't anticipate this at all...!

I closed the journal, visibly upset. Owen asked out of concern, "What's wrong Ringabel? You look pale."

"Nothing, I'm fine... Owen, you said there was only one survivor from that disaster in Norende. Do you know where they are now?"

"He was asleep at this inn until not too long ago. He woke up a little earlier than you, and left the inn in a rush."

"To where?"

"Norende... I think he wants to go see for himself what happened to his hometown."

Tiz! There's almost no doubt about it.

I had a sudden urge to see him. I got out of bed.

"What's wrong? Are you sure you're well enough to walk?"

"Y-Yes. I'm just worried about that survivor. I think I'll go out to meet him."

"What, right now? But, you're still recovering."

"I'll be fine, I'm pretty robust. I'll be back soon." No sooner had I said that did I head out of the inn.

Prologue.2

Page 17

Pushing through the pain of my injuries, I hurried up a narrow mountain road that led to Norende Village. Along the way, I pondered over my next course of action.

Once I catch up with Tiz, what then...? Do I journey with him again?

It goes without saying that Tiz and I share a strong bond. We went on a long journey together, helped each other numerous times. I'd never say this to his face, but we're like comrades in war. Partners in crime. Brothers, even.

But that was the Tiz I had traveled across parallel worlds with. The Tiz in this world is a different person.

Even so, I still wanted to see him. Tiz still doesn't know his own fate. I should be the one to tell him. As the older brother, I have an obligation. Plus, it's kind of lonely being on my own like this.

I ran along the road through the dark ravine. Before long, I slipped through the exit.

"This is..."

Sheer cliffs stretched out before me. Below them lied the pitch-black chasm.

Page 18

The smoke rising out here and there across the crumbled ground gave a graphic account of this monstrous disaster.

So this is the chasm that swallowed Norende whole...

It was immensely bigger than the chasm I passed through to enter this world. This was maybe a kilometer in diameter? It did appear as if only eight days have passed since its opening, like Owen said.

The sound of a girl's voice interrupted my thoughts.

"Whoever you are, wherever you are. Can you hear my prayers? Can you see what I see...?"

"!" Surprised, I looked to find whose voice it was.

A girl stood on the edge of a cliff not far from me. Her back was to me, so I couldn't see her face. Still, I well knew who she was.

She had beautiful long black hair, and was neatly dressed. A friend who defeated Ouroboros by my side—

"Agnes...!" I called her name without thinking.

But she didn't take notice, and continued to stare into the chasm, muttering a prayer. "Please, let the walls of the world collapse no further. Let me be strong enough to stop this catastrophe..."

Page 19

As she grew quiet, a young man approached her. Upon seeing him, I gasped again.

Now Tiz is here!

It was indeed Tiz. The boy whose home and family were all taken away from him in an instant by that chasm. My comrade in battle, kind and strong of heart...

But this Tiz looked much frailer than the one I know. He staggered up to Agnes, and called out to her in a wavering voice.

"Um, excuse me..."

"Huh?" Agnes turned around, and drew back in surprise.

Tiz continued, desperate. Almost as if he was going to grab her. "Y-You there. If you know something, tell me, please. What caused that chasm? Did anyone else survive? Surely at least a few others... I need information. Anything...!"

Agnes didn't answer. Tiz had pressed her by talking up a storm.

"...My parents and friends were there. Everyone was. Right in front of me! And now being the only one alive... I refuse to believe it...!"

Before long, Agnes gave a pained answer. "I regret to say you alone survived. I am sorry..."

Page 20

Tiz's shoulders fell. Staring on in a daze, I finally understood what was transpiring.

So this is where Tiz and Agnes met...! I had no clue it happened like this!

I then had a better grasp of how far back in time I'd gone. Right now Tiz and Agnes were meeting for the first time.

Unknowing of the fate they shared, the two continued conversing nervously.

"Um, may I ask for your name...?"

"...I'm Tiz Arrior. And you?"

"Agnes...Agnes Oblige."

Without thinking, I ran up to them. "And my name is Ringabel! Oh, how I've wanted to meet you two!"

"Huh!?"

"Wh-Who are you!?"

The two jumped in surprise, staring my way. Tiz turned back and forth from me to Agnes and asked, "Um... Agnes, do you know this guy...?"

"N-No, not at all." Agnes looked at me warily. "Do you know us?" That's when I realized my mistake.

Crap, I spoke without thinking... Their responses are to be expected, of course.

Page 21

The Tiz and Agnes of this world don't know who I am after all. So it's natural they would be cautious towards me after shouting at them like that. I most likely seem a mad man interrupting their meeting all of a sudden. Realizing this, I began rambling.

"Ah, well, let's see... The captain of the Caldisla guard, Owen, was asking around about you two. He said something about kids heading toward the chasm..."

"Huh...?" Agnes didn't look any more convinced. I began breaking out in a cold sweat. *That was a rather weak excuse, wasn't it?*

Suddenly, a shrill voice broke out. "Something's fishy! Hey, Agnes, what if this guy is one of your pursuers from the Duchy!?"

"!!" Again, I was in total shock. At the sound of the voice, a small figure appeared beside Agnes.

"Ahh! A miniature monster!" Tiz's eyes widened. I, however, just stared, speechless.

A body small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. Glistening silver hair. An innocent look on her face. Beautiful wings sprouting from her back—

A...Airy...!?

It was Airy, without a doubt. The faithful servant of Ouroboros, God of Destruction, disguised as a fairy girl. Just looking at her face brought on a multitude of emotions.

Page 22

The fear from almost being killed. The anger when Edea, Tiz, and Agnes were murdered. The sadness from being betrayed by whom I trusted as a friend. I felt each come and go one after another, before they all vanished once more.

But, I thought she died! We defeated her, and yet, why...!?

Was this also because I'd gone back in time? The questions spun through my mind. But, for now, she responded to Tiz, pretending not to notice me.

"I'm not a monster! How rude. And to a cryst-fairy no less! I've been traveling together with the wind vestal, Agnes."

"A cryst-fairy... Wind vestal...?" Tiz spoke.

"That's right. But before we get into that, there's the deal with this suspicious person here!" said Airy, looking my way. "Start talking! You were chasing after Agnes, weren't you! That's the only reason you'd go out of your way to come here! So you can look for her!"

"N-No, you're wrong! This is all a misunderstanding!"

"How so!?"

"I'm telling you, I..." Pressed, I tried to think of another excuse.

But my mind went blank. Fumbling around with my words has only dug myself into a deeper hole. *This is bad, what do I do!?* Then Agnes joined the interrogation.

Page 23

“A pursuer from the Duchy or no, you are suspicious. Why did you say you’ve wanted to meet us? None of us have ever met before. Why?”

“U-Uh, well, I’m not quite sure either...”

“Not sure? What do you mean?”

“Well, you see, I—” I was desperate to think of an answer. Reluctantly I resorted to the excuse I was most familiar with.

“I’ve lost my memories!”

“Lost your memories?” responded all three, eyes wide.

“Y-Yeah. Just two hours ago, I woke up inside the Caldisla Inn. I remember being on an airship, and getting into an accident. But besides that, I’ve got nothing.”

Tiz spoke up, as if he’d remembered something. “Oh, yeah... When *I* woke up, the people at the inn told me there was another person besides me that had been out of it since the chasm opened.”

“Yes, that’s right! Just like Tiz, I was rescued by Captain Owen. So then, since we came from a similar situation, I would think you ought to know something about me... Do you?”

Page 24

“I’m sorry, I don’t know anything... Only that you weren’t a resident of Norende Village...”

“Oh...” Well, it seemed my excuse worked for now. There’s no way I can back out of it now, but it’s what it is.

Agnes muttered, “Amnesia... I’ve heard such a thing occurs, but...”

Airy still didn’t look convinced, glaring my way. “Curiouser and curiouser. I don’t believe he has amnesia.”

“It’s not like I lost my memories because I *wanted* to. It’s a real pain. Nobody trusts me, I get pipsqueak fairies glaring at me...”

“It’s not *only* because of your amnesia. Your whole getup is sketchy enough for me to not trust you.”

“How dare you. I may not look it, but I am a gentleman of high morals, loved by everyone, and—“

Before I could finish, we suddenly heard a sound across the sky, piercing the wind. Reflexively, we looked to the sky. A large figure soared overhead at high speed.

“The Eternian Sky Knights!?” Agnes shouted. Panicked, she turned to us. “They’ve found me...! I’m the one they’re after! Run away!”

Page 25

“What do you mean they’re after you?” Tiz shouted. We then heard an ominous roaring sound. An onslaught of explosions were fired around us.

“Ugh, a bombardment!”

I immediately stood by Tiz and the others, as if to defend them. Bombs continued to rain down. The aiming of the bombs was all over the place, though, so none of them hit us yet. But, it was clear I couldn’t protect them all by myself.

Tiz spoke up. “This is madness... C’mon, this way!” He grabbed Agnes’s hand and ran off. Airy and I chased after them.

“To the narrow mountain path! It’ll be hard for them to get us that way!”

Following Tiz’s instructions, we hurried back along the road through the ravine. However, counter to what he expected, the airship flew around, resuming its bombardment once more with reckless abandon.

“Uh oh! This is bad!”

It was a carpet bombing, as if they were firing away all their ammo. Flames arose on the surface of the mountain. Hot winds blew overhead. Eventually, one of the bombs crashed into a cliff nearby.

“Kyaa!” Agnes screamed and fell over.

“Agnes, are you ok!?” Airy shouted. She and Tiz stopped to take a look at her face.

Page 26

“U-Ugh... I’m fine...!” Agnes managed, and tried to stand up. However, she soon grimaced in pain. It looked like she was hit by a fragment of a bomb. There was a gash about ten centimeters long on her leg. Blood was leaking out.

“I’ll treat it!” Tiz took out a potion from the bag at his waist, and quickly poured it on Agnes’s leg. I stood by, watching. Anger rose up inside me.

D...Damn those fiends!

I glared at the airship, which was still flying about. We were about fifty meters below it, and it seemed there was no way we could fight it.

The ship faced us and continued its haphazard bombardment. As I braced against the shockwaves, however, I thought of an idea. *I’m still recovering, but I should be able to deliver one blow...! Time to scrounge up what dark skills I have left in me!*

As if acting upon my idea, my right hand began to harbor a black light.

—The Dark Arts. The power I’ve been honing for more than 10 years since I was young. With it, I could knock down enemies from afar.

Alright, looks like I can do it! So I thought, but then Airy called out to me.

“What are you doing, staring at that airship!? I know! You’re trying to send a signal to your buddies on the airship, aren’t you?!”

Page 27

“What!? No, you’re wrong! Don’t you have better things to be worrying about, like checking on Agnes?”

“I-I know that!” Airy looked back at Agnes.

In that instant, I swung my hand towards the airship. The black light shot out, and struck the ship’s propellers. With that one hit, the ship began to shake. Losing control, the ship tried to regain its balance in the sky. But before long, it spiraled down the other side of the mountain.

“Phew...” I gave a sigh of relief.

“Looks like it’s gone... Are we safe now?” Tiz mumbled. Agnes’s leg treatment looked about finished.

Shrugging, I responded, “They most likely ran out of ammo. We should be alright for now.” I hid the fact that I was the one that drove the ship away. I didn’t want to reveal my true powers. Especially with Airy watching.

I didn’t know who this Airy was in particular. But, if she still was that sinister monster, it would be dangerous to have her watching over me.

Come to think of it, Airy has always seen me as a threat...!

I decided to keep Airy’s identity a secret to avoid aggravating matters.

Page 28

Agnes spoke up, “Thank goodness we’re safe now, but... Tiz, Ringabel, why did you two not run away while I was being attacked? I thought I had made clear that they were after me alone.”

“Well, umm. I was sort of just caught up in the moment...” Tiz answered.

I nodded in agreement. “Same with me. More importantly, is your leg alright, Agnes?”

“Yes.... Tiz’s potion seemed to work well.” She responded, sounding a little embarrassed. She stood up and continued. “I thank you for helping me. However, staying with me will endanger you two. Please do not follow me anymore.” She then started walking away.

Tiz spoke out, “I understand, but there’s only a straight path ahead of us. If we’re going back to the city, then we have no choice but to move together.”

“...” Agnes pretended not to listen, but I chased after her.

“Hey now, Agnes. You might need help getting back. Why don’t we return to the city together?”

“Unnecessary. I...know how to get back... I think...” Agnes responded, but her eyes darted about restlessly. She was bound to get lost on her way back. I knew how terrible her sense of direction was.

Page 29

“Ha! It looks like you’re already about to get lost. Why not just let Tiz lead the way?”

“I-I guess I have no choice. Tiz, I ask for your help.”

“Alright, leave it to me.” Tiz gave a faint smile, and walked on ahead of us.

* * * * *

--While we walked, I questioned Tiz and the others. I wanted to confirm the status of this world.

According to Agnes, this world truly is facing a crisis. The four crystals have been swallowed in darkness, and the balance of nature has collapsed. Further, the Duchy was suppressing Crystalism and starting wars in every land.

Apparently, the vestals of the four crystals were being targeted by the Duchy, as well. That explained why that airship had come to attack Agnes earlier.

So far this seems the same as in every other world I had traveled...

I asked Agnes, “So, what do you plan to do from here?”

Page 30

“From looking at the chasm, I know now how I can help put an end to this catastrophe. I’ll need to return to Ancheim.”

Tiz looked at her, surprised. “Agnes, by ‘put an end...’ Do you mean you’ll close up that chasm?”

“I will ‘purify’ the crystals that have been shrouded in darkness. To free the four crystals of the world from the darkness which possesses them... that is all I can do as a vestal. Most likely if I accomplish this, that chasm will close.”

Airy nodded. “Agnes is going to release all the prayers the vestals have been pouring into the crystals across generations. That chasm will be blown away by the power of the light created from the awakening!”

“I never would’ve imagined...!” Tiz fell silent. Finding resolve, he gazed at Agnes. “...Agnes, please. Will you let me help you?”

“Huh? But this has nothing to do with---“

“It has everything to do with me! When that chasm opened, I lost everything. No one should ever have to suffer such a loss again. I’ll do anything to make sure of that.” Tiz stopped walking. He took Agnes’s hand and continued.

Page 31

"You... are like hope. My hope. And I want to help you." He was entirely sincere. Agnes looked moved for a moment, but soon diverted her gaze.

"...Unacceptable. This is a trial I must undertake as vestal, and alone is how I'll see it done."

"But, Agnes..."

"Once we arrive in town we will part ways. Only Airy and I will move forward from there." Agnes moved her hand away from Tiz's grip, and started walking once more. My, what a rough start. So this is how Tiz and Agnes were when they first met?

But, I already knew that they eventually become the hottest couple. I approached Tiz, who was still looking at Agnes, and gave him a pat on the shoulder.

"Got rejected, huh Tiz? But don't look so down. She may seem stubborn now, but I get the feeling she'll accept your help before long."

"Huh? What makes you think that?"

"Just by looking at her, I can tell she was this close to being won over. 'You are My Hope!' What a killer pick-up line. You're a natural Casanova, Tiz."

"Wh-What are you saying!? I just wanted to help her, I wasn't trying to—"

"Relax, I'm only praising you for your sincerity." It was that sincerity that would win over Agnes's trust. That's what I believe anyway from watching their meeting.

Page 32

...They'll be alright. Even without me interfering, they'll be able to overcome the trial ahead by themselves. But then I'll have to worry about...

Airy. Right now, she was fluttering by Agnes's side. If she knows who I really am, she's not showing it.

But, her true form is that hideous monster. Sooner or later, she might revert back into that form and attack Tiz and Agnes.

Should I tell them about her real identity...?

No, that could prove dangerous. She's behaving nicely for now. I ought to think more about when she reveals herself and attacks. Would I alone be able to protect them?

It's hard to say. Airy was a foe that required the full force of myself, Agnes, Tiz, and Edea to defeat. Therefore, I shouldn't tell the others about Airy's true form. But I can't just leave them and do nothing either.

...What a pain. I suppose I'll follow them for now, and prepare for when the time comes.

I was in deep thought when Tiz asked, "Is something wrong? You got quiet all of a sudden." Agnes and Airy looked over at me, still suspicious.

"No, it's nothing. I was just thinking about what to do from here." I responded. Together we all hurried down the mountain path.

Prologue.3

Page 33

The sun had long set by the time we arrived in town.

I headed to the castle with the others to report to the king about the chasm. The king praised Tiz and Agnes for their work, and promised to do all he could to accommodate them.

After, we decided to stay at the old man's inn. Tiz and I shared one room, and Agnes and Airy stayed at the room next door. As we stood before our respective rooms, Agnes reminded us, "Tomorrow we go our separate ways."

Tiz looked bothered by that, but once he entered our room and hit the bed, he fell right to sleep. He must have been exhausted.

...Well of course he'd be. He lost all his family and friends. His heart must be hurting badly...

I laid a blanket over Tiz. I then sat in my own bed, took out a journal, and wrote of today's events.

"I've decided from this day forth to make a record of my travels.

Well, truthfully, it's more like an addendum to the D's Journal. I'll take note of various things, and basically treat this as a personal diary of sorts "

I then recorded the entirety of my long day.

How I passed through the chasm to arrive in this world, how I met Tiz and the others, and how I ended up resting at this inn.

=====

Page 34

...And thus, I traveled again with Tiz and the gang.

I'm still somewhat confused, so let me try to make sense of the current situation.

In the past I have traveled across six worlds in all.

The first was where I was born, and lived as the dark knight of the Duchy, Alternis Dim. For the sake of convenience, I'll call it "the world with the 6 wing pattern." "6" being the number that appeared on Airy's wings.

There, I fought with Airy, and lost. I was swallowed by the Holy Pillar and thrown into another world.

The world I landed in will be called "the world with the 5 wing pattern." That was the starting point of my adventure.

Once I arrived in that world, I lost my memories, and began going by the name of "Ringabel." I met Tiz and the others, and we journeyed to reawaken the crystals. The Holy Pillar appeared once more, and we moved on to the next world.

After that, we basically did the same thing. From “the world with the 4 wing pattern,” to “the world with the 2 wing pattern,” not much changed. We were determined on reawakening the crystals, and making the Holy Pillar appear again.

Page 35

As we traveled throughout the following worlds, we gradually learned about their secrets. And then, in the “the world with the 1 wing pattern,” we fought Airy and Ouroboros, and came out victorious at last. Thus, our long, long journey had come to an end.

The following lists the worlds in short.

(*note I will leave out the bit about the wing patterns)

6th World: Where I was born and where Edea and the others were killed by Airy.

5th World: Where I started going by the name of Ringabel, and began my journey with Tiz.

4th-2nd World: Basically the same worlds. We rushed through them all.

1st World: The ending point of our journey. Where we defeated Airy and Ouroboros, and brought peace to all of the parallel worlds.

For these six worlds, the Holy Pillar was connected to the great chasm. So, we all went through the chasm to return from the 1st World to the 5th World.

And then I alone went through the giant chasm another time in order to go to the 6th World.

But this time, I encountered trouble, and have gone back in time.

It looks like I'll have to travel with Tiz once more in this world...

Page 36

....hm...?

I stopped writing. I realized something didn't make sense in that last sentence.

Hold on, something isn't right, here....?

In the 6th World, Tiz, Agnes, and Edea should've already died. But today, I met Agnes and Tiz, alive and well. That would make one think that time has indeed moved backwards.

But if I really think about it, this is inconsistent. There were many points that didn't match up.

The first being my very existence. Originally, in the 6th World, I wasn't Ringabel, and I never met with Tiz and the others.

Yet, here I am now. Not only that, but today I met with Tiz and decided to travel with him.

Th-This is bad... What if I'm changing history right now...?

Realizing this terrified me.

Even if only slightly, the history of this world has already started to change. That was a clear fact. If this continues, this world will likely be completely different from the 6th World I know now.

In other words, this is no longer the 6th World. I hadn't arrived at a world I once traveled in the past, but a new world entirely!

Page 37

"A-And now that I think about it, Airy's existence doesn't make sense either...! I thought she had traveled through the numerous parallel worlds as one being?"

Airy said that around a billion years have passed since she was born, and she began endlessly traveling the parallel worlds, heading towards the 1st World. If I am to believe her, then she indeed passed through all of the worlds as one being.

And we defeated this one being in the 1st World. That Airy exists in this world is fundamentally strange.

Perhaps Airy wasn't really dead, but still alive, and had fled to this world. That would be good enough of an explanation for—

"Hold it hold it HOLD IT!! That's a hundred times worse than what I had thought before! If Airy is still alive, then, d-d-does that mean, Ouroboros, too, is...."

Ouroboros is alive! Just the thought of it made my body tremble.

Which reminds me, the sage said so before, too. "Now that you have defeated Ouroboros, the chasm will begin to close.

And yet, the giant chasm is still open in this world right now. Isn't that proof enough that Ouroboros still lives?

So does that mean I'm stuck having to go back to the Dark Aurora and fighting that ginormous monster again!? And before that, fighting Airy's true form as well!?

Page 38

"Aaaagh, this is serious! We may have been able to beat that monster last time, but there's no guarantee we could do it again!"

I had never felt so dejected in my life. No matter how great of a world-saving hero I am, I'm still only human. Honestly, I don't think I can accept being told 'hey you're gonna have to fight these guys again, sorry.'

"Wh-Why only me....! There's a limit to how much abuse I can take...!"

Now I'm jealous of Tiz and the others back in the 5th World. Should I have not separated from my friends and returned to my own world? Or was it that I entered the chasm while it was about to close? I may not know the cause of this, but it doesn't change the fact that I've been put in a bad situation.

But if I run away from this, Tiz and the others will blindly follow Airy, and may end up helping bring back Ouroboros. Then they'll have to reawaken the crystals over and over, make the Holy Pillar appear again, and continue on their journey to the 1st World...

...But wait. What is the number on Airy's wings now? How many more worlds have to be connected before Ouroboros is revived?

I realized I forgot to check that.

On Airy's wings, there is a pattern that tells the number of Holy Pillars which need to appear before Ouroboros is awakened. If I can see what it is now, I will have a better idea of the current situation.

I couldn't sit still after that. I left my room, and headed towards the room where Agnes and Airy were staying.

Page 39

"Airy! Airy! You awake!?" I banged on the door. Soon after, the door opened, and Agnes stood before me.

"Wh-What is it, at this time of night...?"

Airy peered from behind her. "He's decided to take action against you, Agnes! I knew he was bad—"

"No! The one I'm after is *you*!"

"Huh? Agh!!" I grabbed hold of Airy and looked at her wings. My eyes widened in surprise.

"What....!?"

There wasn't a 6 or a 0 on her wings. It wasn't really a number at all. It looked like an 8 turned on its side. So in other words,

A ∞ symbol.

"Wh... What is this...!?" I spoke, my voice hoarse. Airy's body stiffened, but she seemed to recover and shouted at me.

"Wh-What are you doing! I'm just a fragile fairy. What are you going to do with me!?"

I came to my senses. I let Airy go, and frantically tried to think of an excuse.

Page 40

"Ahh, well, you see... N-Now that I look at you, you're a really cute fairy..."

"C-Cute...!?" A slight blush spread on Airy's cheeks. She continued, still flustered. "Even so, this isn't right! I mean, it's not like being praised by humans makes me happy or anything!"

"But you see, it's human nature to want to admire beautiful things. Whether it's beautiful women, works of art, or fairies!"

"Y-You think I'm beautiful...! That's the first time anyone's called me that....!" Airy squirmed around bashfully. Honestly, seeing her like this left me feeling extremely perplexed.

This is the first time I've ever seen her react like this. She looks embarrassed, but I can't tell whether it's an act or not. She does seem different from the Airy I once traveled with.

Still, what does that ∞ symbol mean on her wings? What is her true self like? Is Ouroboros truly alive and still ordering Airy to do its bidding? For all those questions, not one answer came to mind.

Just who is this Airy...!? Should I really think of her as the same Airy I once knew?

Thinking over it didn't help me understand any better. On the other hand, I can't just ask her. I held my breath and kept silent.

"...So, is that all? We were just about to sleep," Agnes said to me, sounding appalled.

Page 41

"Y-Yes. There is no excuse for my intruding on a woman's bedroom so suddenly. I apologize..." I lowered my head, and headed back to my room, dejected. I heard a voice speak out from the back.

"Um, What was all that noise?" Tiz asked, sleepily rubbing his eyes.

"Oh, sorry, Tiz. Did we wake you up?"

"No, it wasn't your voices that woke me up, There was something else..."

"Huh?"

"Something's going on outside. I can smell smoke."

"Outside?" I looked towards the window. I could see a red light flickering in the darkness.

"A-A fire!?" Agnes shouted, and ran up to the window. Tiz and I followed, startled.

A building not too far from the inn was in flames. It was a dilapidated house that had no residents, if I remember correctly. A shrill voice echoed in front of the burning building.

"Hehehe! Burn, burn...! My fire can scorch any building into ash...!"

I remembered that voice.

It's Black Mage Ominas Crowe, from the Eternian forces...!

He was an enemy mage that we've fought multiple times across the worlds we traveled.

Page 42

No matter which world we're in, he's always been a coward who starts fires in Caldisla, bringing fear and dread to innocent bystanders.

It looks like he's no different in this world. He's just beyond any hope of change.

Ominas raised his voice so he could be heard farther. "Hey, are you guys listening!? I know the wind vestal is in this city! Hand her over, or I'll spread the fire!"

Agnes's expression changed. "The pursuers from the Duchy must've caught wind that I was here. I'm the one he's after. Once I come forward, this will end."

"What are you saying, Agnes! That's too dangerous!" Tiz objected immediately.

Airy pitched in, “He’s right! If you got caught by them, you’ll be killed!”

Agnes responded, “Then what should I do? If I don’t go out, this city will be consumed by flames, won’t it not?”

“That may be true, but...” Tiz and Airy fell silent.

I shook my head. “No, it’s like Agnes said. We can’t just ignore this.”

“Huh!? Ringabel, do you really suggest then that we hand over Agnes?!”

Page 43

“Not exactly. Agnes won’t be the one heading out. I will.” No sooner had I said that, I dashed out of the room.

I heard Tiz’s voice call after me, “Huh!? W-Wait a second, Ringabel! You’re way outnumbered!”

“T-Tiz, please wait!”

I ran down the stairs. But Tiz, Agnes, and Airy caught up to me soon after.

“What, why are you all following me?”

All three responded at once.

“I can’t just leave you out there!”

“Well, I saw Tiz leave, so...!”

“Wherever Agnes goes, I go.”

“Hmm. Well, I guess I can’t stop you guys.”

It’ll be dangerous, but I’ll protect them. I ran out the inn with Tiz and the rest.

Outside, sparks of fire filled the night sky. The townspeople were fleeing in terror. Going against the flow of people, we ran towards the burning building.

But then, a voice gentle like a spring breeze sounded out from a nearby alley. “Stop this, Ominas! Cowardly acts like arson only serve to worsen the Duchy’s reputation!”

“!” Upon hearing that voice, I trembled as if I had been struck by a Thundaga. It was a voice I was so used to hearing up until a few days ago. But it was *her* voice.

Page 44

I quickened my pace and looked down the alley—

And there she was.

Edea...!

I came to a stop. Tiz and Agnes followed me, but I wasn’t in my right mind to notice them. Sparks of fire raining behind me, I stared at her face.

She stood far into the alley, wearing the Eternian Sky Knight armor. Her profile was illuminated by the flames, shining beautifully in the twilight air.

Edea Lee—The Grand Marshal of Eternia’s daughter, and my childhood friend. Ever since my time as Alternis Dim, I’ve been secretly in love with her.

When I lost my memories, I also forgot about her. But my feelings for her lingered in my heart. We met, not knowing one another, and over the course of our journey together, our bond solidified.

And here we are again. Beside her were what appeared to be her subordinates from the Eternian forces, and Ominas.

They didn't seem to notice us. Edea stared down Ominas and said, "Let's withdraw for today, Ominas. We've threatened them enough."

"What? You want to order me now, Edea!? You're supposed to be my subordinate."

Page 45

"Mrgrgr! I'm telling you...!"

"Eeek!" Ominas shrunk into himself from Edea's glare. "A-Alright! Geez, this is why I hate women!" he muttered, and looked around. "Listen up! We'll be back! Until you hand over the vestal, we'll burn down one building every night!"

Hearing those words, I snapped back into reality. I hurried down the alley and raised my voice. "No, wait, you think I'll let you do that?!"

Ominas turned around with a start. He noticed Agnes behind me. "Y-You're... the wind vestal. And her friends!? D-Did you come here to surrender!?" he exclaimed.

"In your dreams! We're here to defeat you."

"What!? Damn! F-Fine! I'll burn you all with my magic!" Ominas raised his rod in the air.

Panicked, Edea tried to stop him. "W-Wait, Ominas. Our orders were only to capture the vestal!"

Ominas shook her off and shouted, "Hee hee hee, like that matters! I'll show you my power! Fire!" A wide fire ball shot out of his rod.

Page 46

"Whoa!" I jumped out of the way. Airy flew away, screaming. Tiz shouted, "Watch out, Agnes!" and brought her down to the ground, shielding her.

The fireball flew over their heads and crashed into the wall of a building behind them.

Ominas's eyes widened. "Wh-What!? How dare you dodge my attacks...! Damn! Fire, Fireee!" He released more fireballs with reckless abandon. They had no aim, and covered the entire alleyway with fire.

Edea screamed, "S-Stop it, Ominas!! We're in such a narrow space, if you keep this up—!"

But her warning came a moment too late. Instead of hitting us, one of Ominas's fireballs directly landed on a nearby soldier.

"AAAGH! S-Sir Ominas!" Covered in flames, the soldier fell to the ground.

"Ah!" Ominas shouted, and stopped his endless barrage of magic.

“A-Are you ok!?” yelled Edea as she ran to the soldier.

She frantically patted down his clothes to put out the fire. But it seemed she didn’t make it in time. The soldier moaned, “L-Lady Edea...!” and his head fell.

“Ah...!” Edea watched over the dead soldier, in a daze. She shut her eyes tight, and firmly gripped the burnt edges of his clothes.

Page 47

Tiz stared on. He spoke, anger showing through his voice. “He just, attacked his own comrade...!”

“Yeah. I’m starting to feel sorry for the enemy...” He’s always done stuff like this. A despicable man as always. I am growing fed up with him.

The anger we harbored seemed to spread to Edea. Before long, she breathed out her trembling words. “Ominas, how could you do this...!? You would kill the vestal, even if it means involving your comrades...?”

“H-Hmph! What comrades? They’re just my lackeys, aren’t they?”

“Lackey...!” Edea raised her head and glared at Ominas. “This man treated me so well, even though I’m new to the Sky Knights... and you’re saying he’s not a comrade!?”

“Q-Quiet! You’re exaggerating this whole thing! He was a soldier! You’re supposed to be prepared to die in battle, right!? Capturing the vestal is what matters here, not some underling’s life!” Ominas shouted, as if to hide his discomfort. “Isn’t that what the Sky Knights are for!? As long as we complete the mission, nothing else matters! Right!?”

Page 48

Those words seem to have destroyed what little restraint Edea had left on her emotions. She pulled out her sword that she had at her waist, and pointed it at Ominas.

“If that’s what the Sky Knights are like, I will not allow it! I’ve stood by and watched your deeds up to now, but I cannot follow along with you anymore!”

“What!? A-Are you turning traitor, Edea!? You’ll disgrace your father!”

“My father has nothing to do with this! I’m judging you by my own beliefs!” Edea turned to us and shouted, “You three! Help me out!”

“Huh? U-Us!? But—“

Blocking out Tiz, I responded, “Of course, Edea! I, Ringabel, will be delighted to aid you in battle!”

“Huh? H-How do you know my name?” She seemed confused for a moment, but reverted back and continued. “Never mind, we’ll talk later! I’ll have time to listen to what you say after we defeat Ominas!”

“D-Damn! Why does everyone always try to make a fool of me! If this is how it’s gonna be, then I’ll burn you all to ash, Edea included!” Ominas swung his rod once more.

Page 49

“Fira!!” Fire balls spout forth again. They were even larger than earlier before. I quickly pulled out my sword.

“Too easy,” I said as I cut through the fire balls midair.

“Wha!?” Ominas shouted in surprise. By then, Edea had already started moving.

“You can’t afford to be looking elsewhere, Ominas!” She brandished her sword, and with a quick slash, cut Ominas’s rod in half.

“Ah...!” Ominas looked down at the upper half of his rod on the ground, and shrieked. “D-Damn it! I’ll cut my losses here for today!” He took something out from his chest pocket. It was a small stone that gave a faint glow. It was a teleport stone, which had the magical ability to transport people in an instant.

“Ah! Hold on, Ominas, do you plan to run away!?” Edea shouted, but the teleport stone had already begun to shine brightly. The next second, Ominas’s body was engulfed in light, and—

He was gone.

Page 50

“Urgh, he got away!” Edea shouted, stomping at the ground. Tiz and Agnes, who were still crouched down to the ground, slowly stood up.

“Man, things got so hectic, I honestly couldn’t even keep up...”

“Edea, right? Did you really betray your own people?”

Edea stiffened at Agnes’s question. “Y-Yeah, that’s what it looked like,” she responded, and let out a deep sigh. “I’ve really gone and done it now... I don’t suppose I can ever be forgiven for raising a hand against my superior.”

“Are you regretting it?” I asked, but Edea shook her head.

“Nope, not at all. I followed my own heart. If I continued to work under that rotten man, I might’ve one day turned rotten as well. That’s why, this is acceptable.” She spoke as if trying to persuade herself. She turned to us and continued. “And thus begins my life as a deserter. I trust you guys have room in your party for one more?”

“Welcome aboard. This has truly been a fateful encounter!” I felt a sort of nostalgia in our exchange. This was the same conversation I had with Edea in the 5th World.

Page 51

If it really was the same, then I knew what was coming next.

Agnes raised her voice. “Unacceptable! What bond of trust can exist between a Sky Knight of the duchy and a vestal?”

“So you’re the vestal of wind...? Maybe we aren’t fit for each other. Since I was a child I’ve been told you were a black-hearted witch.”

“You see? We cannot—”

“Wait. I’ve just realized. As a Sky Knight I was told what we accomplished in battle was righteous. But seeing it now, it doesn’t seem right at all...” Edea stared at Agnes. “At the very least, Ominas wasn’t right. If I had to decide between black and white, he’s as black as they come. I want to see for myself... are the things I’ve believed in black or white? What is the color of your heart, vestal? Whether you like it or not, I’ll be sticking around until I find out!”

Edea flashed a bright smile. Withdrawn, Agnes leaned over to whisper in Tiz’s ear. “...Tiz, what do you think? Should we trust her?”

“I don’t know, but she doesn’t seem like a bad person.”

Page 52

“Even if she doesn’t seem that way, that doesn’t mean she’s not. That includes Ringabel, too. I’m not so sure I’d like to cooperate with these shady characters.”

I spoke to Agnes, “Do not worry. This lady and I are keepers. Truly.”

“Huh? How can you be so sure?”

Edea chimed in. “Yeah, even if you helped me in battle, we still only just met.”

“No, I can tell. Just from looking into your eyes, clear as the blue sky...”

“Wh-what was that, some kind of pick-up line...?” Edea backed away. “...Well, I’ll thank you for helping me, but I’m not a fan of playboys.”

“Yes, I know. But, this is just who I am.” I gave her a wink. A voice then shouted out.

“I’m not sure what’s going on, but it feels like we got a bunch more friends!” It was Airy, who had been off hiding somewhere up until now. She looked down on us from above.

I shrugged my shoulders. “Hold on, were you just watching?”

Page 53

“I was. I saw you and that girl fight off the bad guys!” A smile spread across her face. “You both seem really capable, so if you fight alongside Agnes, I welcome you into our group with open arms! Here’s to the road ahead!”

“Yes, it’s an honor. I promise to stay by your side until the end of our journey.” I responded, focusing on Airy.

--And that is how I met up with my three friends and that one fairy.

Friends I thought I had left. And a monster I thought I had defeated.

Where this journey will take us, I myself still don’t know.

Burying my hopes and fears, for now I’ll be happy to be reunited with my friends...

Update on April 5: Pgs 34-40 added. Chapter 1 complete! \o/ [Donate for more!](#)
Chapter 2 and beyond will take on summary format.

[Prologue](#) [Chapter 2](#)

Page 1

10/12 ... Cloudy as always, obscuring the view to the future.

So we have the usual crew back together. Even though we're in the middle of a journey full of mysteries, being together brings me a little comfort.

For now, we worked together to try to put out the burning buildings. Eventually Owen and the entire royal guard joined us. We extinguished the fires, and told Owen the whole story of what happened.

We first briefly introduced ourselves, and introduced Edea. Because she was still wearing her military uniform from the Duchy, Owen was suspicious of her, but after explaining how she became a deserter, he loosened up.

Edea must have left a good impression by helping putting out the fires. Since she quit the Sky Knights, Owen accepted her as a refugee of sorts.



Page 2

So we began talking about what to do next. Edea said that judging from Ominas's actions, the Duchy will likely stop at nothing in order to capture the wind vestal. I knew deep in my heart just how true that was.

Of course, if we handed Agnes over to the enemy, that would be the end of it. But Tiz, Owen, and I would not allow that.

"We can't just let them continue to burn our city, but to abandon the lady vestal would be an affront to both the teachings of knighthood and Crystalism," said Owen, and he offered his protection to the vestal.

The King of Caldisla, known to be a man of good character, said to us, "Our kingdom shall give you our full support." I never interacted with him much, but he truly seems to be a good person like the rumors suggested. It was then arranged by the king that we would stay at the castle for the night.

...Little by little, this was becoming more different from the past experiences I remember. This was already clearly not the 5th or 6th World.

And thus for now I will refer to the world I'm currently in, after looking at Airy's wings, as the Infinite World.

What is infinite about it, I do not know. But, it's unclear where among the numerous parallel worlds this world lies. So no other name would suit it.

I'm truly happy that I was able to meet my friends, but the uncertainty of the future leaves me on edge.

Just what is this world? And what should I do here...?

=====

Page 3

Chapter 1.1

That last sentence I wrote while walking down the corridors of the palace. I then heard Owen's voice call out in front of me.

"This is the room you'll be staying in. It's not very big, but it's a room reserved for honored guests."

"Hm." I closed my journal, and lifted my head to look at the room.

It was about 30 meters wide, maybe? The furniture was simple but elegant, and the marble floor was beautifully polished. Four beds lied in a row. Tiz and Agnes stared in surprise.

"Owen, are you sure we can stay here? It's such a nice room."

"I feel like I'm intruding..."

"Nonsense. This is a favor of the King. Don't worry about it. You four must be tired. Please, you should get some rest here."

"Yeah. Thanks, Owen," I said. Owen waved to me and left.

Tiz, Agnes, Edea, and I remained. If Airy was here, our story would have gotten more complicated, so she went into hiding for now. With just the four of us, as if her tensions cleared away, Edea flopped onto a bed.

Page 4

“Man, I’m exhausted... It’s been a long day.”

“Heh. Still can’t believe you’ve gotten yourself into this situation?”

“Yeah. Until this morning, I was a member of the Sky Knights on a mission to attack the Kingdom of Caldisla. But then I revolted against my superior, became a deserter, and now I’m being treated as an honored guest in the enemy’s palace... Even I find this hard to believe.” Edea looked anxious.

Agnes sat on the bed next to hers, and muttered, “I can’t believe it either. We’re being treated so kindly by the King... Even though, I’ve been nothing more than a burden.”

Tiz objected immediately, shaking his head. “Nobody thinks you’re a burden. This is all just common courtesy. For all these adults to go after one girl, and start setting the city on fire when they can’t capture her.... I’m sure the King and Owen are angry at the Duchy for this. Of course they would want to help you.”

“No, it’s not just that. Caldisla is a country where Crystalism still has influence. They likely just want to help the vestal out of religious obligation,” Agnes said quietly, eyes cast down. “...I’m thankful, but I don’t want to cause any more trouble. I want to leave this country as soon as possible and return to the Temple of Wind.”

Page 5

“The Temple of Wind is near that ‘Anheim, Land of Sand and Time’ place, right?” Tiz asked. Agnes nodded.

“Yes. However, Anheim is an ocean away from Caldisla. If there is no way to get across the sea, then I can’t go.”

“How did you come to Caldisla?”

“By a sailing ship. But once we finally arrived, the wind had completely stopped. The ship is probably useless for getting across the sea now.”

“So then the only option left is to go by air... If only we had an airship,” Tiz muttered. *Now’s the time!* I thought, and took out D’s Journal. “This calls for my handy dandy notebook!”

“Huh? A notebook?”

“This journal was the only thing I had on me when I lost my memories. In this book, someone recorded all sorts of information.”

Everyone gave me a blank stare. Edea said in a shocked voice, “So you have amnesia? This is news to me. You don’t have any memories, Ringabel?”

“Nope. All I remember is my name. And I’m not even sure whether it’s a first or last name.”

Page 6

“So you knew my name because of that journal?”

“Yeah, pretty much. It seems I used to pilot an airship, so I must’ve learned various things during my journey. There’s something written about you, too.” I opened to a page describing Edea. She, Agnes, and Tiz each looked at the writing and commented.

“I-It really is about me... ‘Edea Lee. An 18-year old girl hailing from Eternia.’”

“‘On first impression, she appears to be a spoiled princess type.’ Yeah, I do get that feeling...” Tiz continued.

Agnes glanced over to Edea, and read, “‘while strong-willed and opinionated, she is also kind and filled with a sense of justice. She never shies away from a conflict.’ Is this really true?”

“W-Well, when you put it like that, it sounds kind of embarrassing. But it’s definitely not wrong. It even talks about how I like sweet things, and hate cooking and insects.” Edea looked over at me, suspicious. “Why do you have all these details about me? H-Have you been stalking me...?”

“Huh!? N-No! It’s not that I know this about you, it just happened to be written in this book!” I really dug myself into a hole this time. I frantically tried to explain. “Just because I have it now, doesn’t mean I was the one that wrote in it. It might’ve belonged to someone who does know you. I might’ve just come across it by chance before I lost my memories. Yeah—see, this D on the cover looks like it might be someone’s initial. Some other guy wrote in this book, probably. Yeah.”

Page 7

“Hmm, well, alright... You don’t really look like the stalker-type anyway.”

It seems like I saved myself from further problems for now. I quickly changed topics. “...So yeah, I don’t know where this book came from, but there’s some really useful info in here. More specifically, there’s this: ‘The vestal and crew commandeered the Sky Knight’s ship. And with them, Edea?’”

“What does that mean? Is it foretelling our future...” Tiz inquired.

“I believe it’s safe to interpret this to mean ‘We will next steal their airship.’ This might be a prediction of the journal’s owner.”

“Hmm, then what kind of person is this writer? This is sounding like some kind of prophecy...” Tiz cocked his head to the side. Agnes and Airy remained silent, still looking doubtful.

Edea spoke up. “We may not know what this journal is, but we don’t have any other options. We can’t stay in this country, so let’s just take the Duchy’s airship, yeah?”

“It’ll be dangerous, but that’s the quickest solution.” Tiz said. Agnes agreed. “...We have no other choice.”

Page 8

Our course has been decided. Revitalized, Edea said, "Alright! So there's this place up north called Lontano Villa. Let's go there tomorrow! That's where the Duchy docked their airship. They should be able to let us borrow it when they see me."

"Lontano Villa...?" This was proceeding similarly to our previous travels. I pitched in. "But along the way, isn't there some sort of fort? It says so in my notebook."

"Yes, it's called Centro Keep. That's where Ominas and his crew have been stationed. We can kick his butt as we pass through."

It was settled. Prepared for tomorrow, we all decided to go to sleep.

"Goodnight, everyone," said Tiz. "...Mm-hm," Agnes managed, and wrapped herself in the blankets.

"Goodnight!" Airy said, and slipped under the covers in Agnes's bed. Edea turned to me. "I'm going to sleep too. No funny business, Ringabel," she said, placing her favorite blade, Ise-no-kami, by her pillow, and lied down.

Shortly after I could hear everyone sleeping. I looked at the clock, and saw it was already past 2 am. Though everyone was still suspicious of each other, that suspicion couldn't keep them awake.

...We're still not yet at a point where we can call each other friends, I thought.

Page 9

That's to be expected. They may be dear friends to me, but to the other three, we're all strangers who just met yesterday. I wonder if we'll become real friends in the coming journey. It's possible we might form a different relationship altogether.

...Regardless of what happens, I will protect them. After coming to this world and meeting them, I *have* to. Especially with that one creature that holds all of my anxieties. That being Airy, sleeping next to Agnes.

I still don't know who she is. After seeing the pattern on her wings, I feel like something is different about her from the Airy I knew. Maybe she's not a wicked being, but just an innocent cryst-fairy.

Besides, her overlord Ouroboros should be gone. Airy couldn't be acting by its orders, then. Could she just simply want to help Agnes...?

...No, that's all just what I hope for. What I wish to be true.

I don't know her true identity yet. The possibility that she's still a monster is very high. It's possible Ouroboros yet lives. Having been betrayed by Airy and forced into a deadly struggle, I cannot leave her alone.

I can't lose everyone again. It's my duty to make sure it doesn't happen.

My resolve steeled, I lied down on the bed. Listening to everyone else sleeping, I quietly fell into slumber.

Chapter 1.2

The next morning.

We bid our farewells to Owen and the King of Caldisla, and set our sights on Centro Keep.

The king gave us various goods as a farewell present. Including some broad swords and leather armour for equipment, and potions for medicine. Agnes and Tiz, who were unarmed beforehand, equipped what the king gave them and prepared themselves for battle.

Seeing this, Owen said, “You guys are all so young, it’s got me worried... If you want, should I assign some of the royal guard as protection?”

“No, we’re fine,” I answered. “Edea is well known in the Duchy, and I plan on pulling my weight as well. The royal guard should focus solely on protecting the king. Something like last night might occur again.”

“You’re right... but if things get dangerous, return back here. Ok?”

“Ok, we’ll be careful.” I gave my thanks to Owen and the king, and left the castle with my friends.

We left the city and headed north towards Centro Keep. To avoid drawing attention from the enemy, we walked through the woods alongside the city road.

On the way, we talked about each other. Tiz explained how he was the sole survivor from the disaster at Norende Village, had met Agnes and me by the giant chasm, was immediately attacked by the sky knights, and how he eventually came to travel with us.

After hearing his story, Edea expressed her sincere condolences to Tiz. She then looked to Agnes and asked, “I know you said you were planning on going to the Temple of Wind, but what are you going to do once you’re there?”

“I will perform the Rite of Awakening for the wind crystal, which has been shrouded in darkness. That should revive the still winds. Then, if I awaken the crystals of water, fire, and earth, the chasm at Norende should close.”

“Y-You can do that!? Being a Wind Vestal is amazing...” Edea said in a surprised voice, and then, as if she realized something, continued. “Oh, so Ringabel and Tiz are your helpers, huh? A journey to save the world.... It sounds so exciting. I’ll help, too!”

“That’s not necessary. From the beginning this has been a trial for me as vestal to undertake. I will not accept help from my enemy.”

“E-Enemy...!”

Page 12

“Of course. I’m a vestal of the Crystal Orthodoxy, and you’re a knight of the Eternian Duchy, which promotes anti-crystalism, does it not?” Agnes’s words were harsh.

Crystalism had been widely practiced by people for the past 2400 years, and is the most prominent religion. Though it’s become more obsolete in recent years, its presence and influence still exists. Agnes, being a vestal of the crystals, is a symbol of Crystalism, and had been immersed in its teachings since she was very young.

The Duchy of Eternia, however, encourages anti-crystalism, which opposes the worship of the crystals. As a result, they’ve committed various acts of suppression towards Crystalists. It’s understandable for Agnes to hold some animosity towards people of the Duchy.

Agnes stared at Edea and continued. “You and I are natural enemies. We cannot travel together.”

“Mrgrgr...! I-I may have been raised on anti-crystalism beliefs, but I left the military, so it doesn’t matter anymore! Even still, you won’t let me join you!?”

“It’s not just you. Tiz and Ringabel may be with me now, but we’ll soon part ways as well. I will fulfill my duty to the crystals on my own.”

Tiz muttered beside Agnes, “Am I unrelated to your journey? I’m not connected to Crystalism, but I want to help you...”

Page 13

“...I’ve said this before, but I don’t want to be a bother. You’ll be put in great danger.” Agnes looked away.

Distressed, Edea turned to me. “Ringabel, what are you gonna do? Don’t you wanna help Agnes?”

“Huh, me? Y-Yes, greatly so....” I mumbled.

I have helped awaken the crystals many times before. We believed it would help save the world. But, by raising the Holy Pillars, all we did was help revive Ouroboros. Knowing that now, I don’t feel right awakening the crystals.

Should I be acting as I did in the past...? What can I do to ‘save the world?’

I kept silent. Suddenly, Airy, who had been out of sight until now, appeared before my eyes.

“What’s there to think about, Ringabel?”

“Huh? Airy?”

“Isn’t it obvious that the world will be in danger if we don’t rid the crystals of darkness? The winds have stopped, the sea is rotten, volcanos are erupting, and the earth is splitting open. Our only option is to awaken the crystals so the world can return to normal. If the world is destroyed, both the Orthodoxy and the Duchy will be no more.”

Page 14

“Th-That’s true...” I answered reflexively to her passionate argument.

Airy looked at Agnes and continued. “And Agnes, you’re being way too stubborn. You might not be able to fulfill your duty on your own. Everyone wants to help you, so just accept the help!”

“...” Agnes didn’t respond.

Tiz gently chimed in. “Airy is right, Agnes. Together we may be able to do what you can’t alone. This isn’t a problem that just affects you. It involves me, and all of the people in the world.”

“That may be true, but...” Agnes mumbled, still not fully convinced. I sighed.

So Airy still is encouraging everyone to awaken the crystals. That’d make sense if she was Ouroboros’s servant. Awakening the crystals leads the world to destruction.

But, she’s right that not awakening them also spells bad news for the world. I know that well enough by now, but still something held me back.

If we awaken the crystals and make the Holy Pillar appear again, the same thing will happen again... What can I do?

Just then, I felt the purpose in my travels disappear. Of course I want to protect everyone, but I need an ultimate goal to this adventure.

Page 15

I feel as if that goal is connected to why I came to this world.

Travelling aimlessly isn’t going to get me any good results. That was what happened during our last travels. I recalled the words of Sage Yulyana.

“Have the courage to think and act on your own,” was it...? What should I think in this world, and how should I try to act?

It’s still uncertain. But, I’ll follow them to Centro Keep for the time being...

After walking through the forest for some time, the old keep came into view.

The Ruins of Centro Keep—this was a place we visited quite a few times in past travels.

Looking at the entrance, Tiz asked in a low voice, “So that’s where that Ominas mage is...?”

“Most likely. He should have a platoon of about 40 soldiers with him. His subordinates are pretty low-leveled, so I should be able to handle them by myself, but...” Edea answered.

By her side, I asked in return, “We’re likely to get into a fight when we enter the keep. Will Agnes and Tiz be alright?”

Page 16

“Hmm, well... As a shepherd I often drove away wild animals, but I don’t have any experience fighting another human.”

“I-I’ve lived as a vestal my entire life, so I’ve never been involved with battling...”

“You two seem anxious, so I’ll give you these.” I reached into my bag, and took out a few items from my inventory pouch.

Two were stones. One contained a flickering fire, and another ice crystals. A third item was a large glittering cloth.

“What are those?” asked Tiz.

“I carried them with me. This here is a bomb fragment, this is called antarctic wind, and this is a light curtain. Using them invokes magic. You can protect yourselves when things get messy.”

“Magic...? I’ve never seen these before. They sound really useful.”

“They are. Especially this light curtain. It can repel enemy magic, so if we fight Ominas, this will come in handy.”

I gave the items to them.

Edea showed a bright smile. “Good thinking, Ringabel! It looks like our preparations for battle are complete. Let’s go storm the keep!”

“Alright!” “Yeah!” “O-Ok!” “I’ll be lying low, so fight hard, everyone!”

We all nodded to one another, and ran towards the keep.

Page 17

We charged through the entrance, but we didn’t make it very far before stopping.

“Hm...? Why is nobody here?” There was no sign of life in the keep. It was dim and silent. There wasn’t one sound. We proceeded cautiously into the darkness, but there was no sign of the enemy to be found.

“How strange. Did that Ominas guy retreat?”

“And leave this place unprotected? That’s pretty irresponsible of him...” Right when Tiz said that, we felt the presence of something further in the darkness. A red light flickered and then—

“Watch out! Everyone get down!” I shouted, startling everyone. When we fell to the ground, a fireball flew toward us from the darkness.

The fireball passed overhead and exploded against the wall. I stood up. “Ominas!?” I yelled, and a voice responded from the darkness.

“Darn! Did I miss again...!?” Ominas peered at us from behind a column.

Edea stood up and shouted at him, “Ominas, don’t you know surprise attacks are cowardly!? Were you waiting here for us!?”

“Th-That’s right. I figured you simpletons would just waltz in here looking for a fight.”

Page 18

“Where are the other soldiers? Did they decide to leave you after seeing you kill your own subordinates?”

“N-No! They would’ve gotten in the way, so I made them return to Lontano Villa!” Ominas said, enraged. He stepped away from the column. She probably guessed right.

I laughed. “So you were left here alone, but you’re gonna say you were just lying in wait for us? You’re a sneaky one, if not incredibly arrogant.”

“H-Hmph. It’s just easier to fight when I’m by myself. I can finish this nonsense without worrying about involving my comrades.” Ominas said, and raised his rod. “Edea the traitor and the wind vestal. How convenient for you both to come. This is my perfect chance. If I take both of you down, everyone will HAVE to acknowledge my greatness. They’ll never look down on me again! Take this! Fira!” Flames then shot out of his rod.

The flames winded like a snake on the stone walls of the keep.

“This is bad. Everyone take cover!” I yelled. Everyone frantically tried to do so.

But the flame chased after us, as if it were a living creature.

“Aghhh, watch out!” Edea screamed. Agnes and Tiz fled, going off in different directions through the labyrinthine keep.

Page 19

“Ah, hot! N-No! Don’t get my clothes! This is the only good outfit I own! It cost me a fortune!”

“Ringabel, this is serious! If we don’t get out of here, we’ll die!”

“Th-There’s smoke in my eyes...! Wh-Where is everyone...?”

“Agnes, (cough), I’m over here (cough cough)!”

The sound of our panicking echoed throughout the smoke and fire. Scrambling to try to escape, we became separated from each other. Our surroundings became a sea of fire, blinding us. While trying to put out the fire on my clothes, I hid behind a column.

“Damn! Is everyone ok!?” I yelled.

“I-I am, somehow!” I heard from behind. I turned around. Edea was taking cover using the column right behind me.

Further away, on the other side of the blazing fire sounded Tiz. “Agnes and I are alright! We’re over here! But, Agnes....”

“Is she burned!?”

This time Agnes responded. “N-No...! I-I’m just so scared, I can’t move....”

“....!”

I gritted my teeth. Agnes’s voice sounded so unusually frail.

I can’t really blame her. Until just recently, she’s lived a peaceful life as vestal at her temple.

Page 20

Being surrounded by flames like this, anyone would think they were about to die. Suddenly, we heard Ominas's voice again, sounding as if he was ready to deliver the final blow.

"Hee hee hee! Yes, fear me! I'll not let you go no matter how much you cry or apologize!"

I quickly looked around me. But I couldn't see him. All I could see was a blazing corridor.

Agnes then screamed, "P-Please stop! I surrender! Do not involve everyone else in this any further!"

Tiz immediately reacted. "Wait, Agnes!?"

Ominas scoffed at her. "Hmph! You say you'll surrender, but you're just trying to trick me. Women can't be trusted."

"No, I'm not trying to trick you at all! I truly—"

"Shut it! You'll all turn to ash and that's that!" I could hear him sending out more flames. The force of the flames grew stronger, and the heat enveloped us.

It was getting harder and harder to see where he was.

Edea shouted behind me. "Mrgrgr, curse you, Ominas! You're going too far!"

"Yeah, unpopular guys like him are more trouble than they're worth. His magic isn't that strong, he's just unleashing way too much fire.

At this rate no matter how long we hide, we'll all be burnt to a crisp eventually. Should I try to guess where he is, and fire my dark arts at him?

Page 21

No, that won't work. I don't know where Tiz and the others are either, so it's possible I could hit them.

There's no other choice then. Do I brave the fire burns and run out? When that thought crossed my mind—

A cold wind blew by, putting out the fires.

"Hm!?" My eyes widened in surprise. Deep in the hallway, with the flames now extinguished, I could see Tiz and Agnes hiding behind a column about 20 meters away. Tiz had a fragment of an antarctic wind in hand.

"Did you put out the flames with that!?" I shouted. Ominas popped out from behind a door beside Tiz.

"D-Darn it! To think a kid could pull off a trick like that!" Ominas shot off a fireball towards Tiz and Agnes. However, Tiz quickly pulled out the light curtain and repelled the shot.

"A-Arggh!" Ominas barely dodged his own attack. But by then, I had already ran out of hiding.

"You've gone too far, you loser!" I released the dark magic stored in my right hand. It was a direct hit.

“Gyaa!!” Ominas shouted, and was blown back.

Page 22

Ominas slammed against the wall, and fell to the ground with a thud.

Seeing this, Edea cheered. “Alright! Good going, Ringabel! I didn’t even get a turn!”

“Ha! Guess this is what happens when I put in some effort.” I smiled at her. But then suddenly, a voice sounded right by my ear.

“That was really amazing, Ringabel. But what was that spell?”

“!?” It was Airy. She stared at me, curious.

“That wasn’t any old magic spell or sword skill. I’ve never seen an ability like that before. How could you do that if you lost your memories?”

“U-Um, well, you see... I don’t really understand, myself, but I think it’s my signature move.”

“Signature move?”

“Something that I learned before I lost my memories, most likely. It’s like when I’m in a desperate situation, my hidden powers come through... maybe.”

“Hmm, that’s awfully convenient. But if that power helps protect Agnes, then I’m happy to have it on our side.” Airy gave an innocent smile. Seeing that smile made me break out in a cold sweat.

D-Does she suspect me...!?

I instinctively used the dark arts to save my friends, but it seems I can’t show my true powers in front of Airy.

Page 23

I looked away from Airy, and changed the subject.

“A-Anyway! You really saved the day, Tiz. It’s all thanks to you we made it out of this alive.”

“Well, I just thought ‘I have to save Agnes!’ and my body moved on its own... It was reckless of me. I just got lucky.”

“Hah, don’t be so modest. Your greatest weapon isn’t any of the items I gave you. It’s your courage.”

“O-Oh... Well I’m glad we were able to protect her.”

We looked over towards Agnes. She was cowering behind a column.

Edea asked in a worried voice, “Wh-What’s wrong, Agnes? Are you hurt?”

“No... It’s just pathetic how useless I was...” She hung her head in shame. “I never wanted to involve anyone. This is a duty I have to fulfill as vestal, so I have to manage on my own. I have to be able to overcome any trial on my own...” She sounded frustrated. “But when

faced with real danger, I was terrified. Tiz could muster up the courage to fight, but I couldn't do anything..."

"Don't beat yourself up, Agnes. You're only a girl."

"No. I cannot complete this mission as I am now. I want to become stronger. Like you all are..."

Page 24

Agnes lifted her head and looked at us. "...I'm sorry I treated you all like a burden up to now. Please, I ask for your help. Will you join me...? Alone, I cannot fulfill my duty. So please, until I become stronger..." She bowed her head. We each replied.

"What are you being so formal for? Whether you get stronger or not, I'll stay by your side." I said.

Edea joined. "So we're finally friends now! Here's to the road, Agnes!"

Tiz took Agnes's hand and said, "Everything will be fine, Agnes. We'll do our best together. You'll probably get stronger before you know it."

"...Yes. I'll do my best." Agnes gave a beautiful smile. It was the first smile I saw from her in this world. Edea grinned in return, and Tiz gazed in wonder at Agnes smiling.

So this is when the country bumpkin begins to fall for Agnes this time. Tiz was able to make a good impression, so it looks like Agnes is slowly starting to be taken with him, too. I can't say it doesn't make me a little envious, but it's very heart-warming to see.

Our party's relationship problems are mending pretty quickly. Next up is...

Before I finished that thought, there was a sound outside the walls of the keep.

Page 25

"Hm? What was that noise?" Tiz muttered.

Edea responded, "An airship...? Sounds like the Duchy are taking off."

"With the airship!?" I gasped. The memories of our experience in The 5th World came to mind.

In that world, immediately after we defeated Ominas, the Duchy's airship attacked Caldisla. And then—

"This is bad... The King and Owen are in danger! Let's get back to the city!"

"Huh!? W-Wait, Ringabel, what about Ominas!?"

"Just tie him up! We don't have time, I'm going ahead!" I hurriedly explained and ran to the exit of the Keep.

Chapter 1.3

I hurried over to Caldisla as fast as possible. Before long, Edea and the others caught up.

"What's wrong, Ringabel? Your face is pale!"

“I know who the Sky Knights are after! They’re going to kidnap the king as a way to lure out Agnes!”

Page 26

“Huh!? But they got Owen to protect the castle—“

“Not even Owen can beat who they have with them! If we don’t get back soon, something will happen that can’t be undone!”

If things happen as they did in the “5th World,” then that’ll be the case. Owen fought alone trying to protect the king, and was killed by the leader of the Sky Knights. The King was then kidnapped. We didn’t make it in time.

Determined not to let that tragedy happen again, I ran along the road with my friends.

Before long, Caldisla came into view. An airship floated above, and from it soldiers descended on a rope one after another into the city. When all the soldiers had been dispatched, the airship flew away.

“Damn! This is bad. C’mon everyone!” I yelled, and ran faster.

We passed through the gates and entered the city. What I had predicted was already occurring.

On the streets and in the shadows of buildings, the kingdom’s soldiers lie defeated. It was a scene I already saw once before. “Are you okay!?” Agnes asked, running to a soldier.

He responded weakly, “The Sky Knights, rushed into the castle... The King is in danger...!” and then passed out. I quickly used a potion I received from the king and healed his wounds.

Edea, who was watching this, said in a disgusted voice, “Let’s go, Ringabel! Kidnapping the king is a cowardly act I won’t forgive!

“Yeah! Tiz, Agnes, Airy. Tend to the soldiers’ wounds!”

Page 27

“Understood!”

“Leave it to me!”

“I-I guess we should!”

Right after I heard them, I started running again.

Together with Edea, I rushed up the path to the castle. As we got closer, we could hear a great clamor.

Oh no, has the fight already begun!?

Soldiers of the Duchy stood in the way ahead. “L-Lady Edea!? I’m sorry, but you cannot—” They began, but,

“You’re in the way!” I yelled, and unleashed my dark magic powers.

“Huagh!?” “Wha-!?” “Eh!?”

The black light sent them all flying. I went easy on them since they were Edea's former comrades, but it was enough to knock them unconscious. Edea and I leapt over the fallen soldiers' bodies and went through the castle gates.

We finally arrived at the throne room. The scene that entered my vision was,
The king lying unconscious on the floor. Owen on one knee, with his hands and legs stained in blood.

"Owen!" I instinctively shouted and ran to him. Owen didn't stand up, and responded, "R-Ringabel, you're here?... Ha ha, you sure caught me looking my worst....!"

"This isn't the time to be worried about appearances! Are you alright!?"

"Y-Yeah, it was close, but I managed...."

What a relief, we made it in time! I quickly took out a potion and poured it on Owen's wounds.

Page 28

As I did, Owen weakly responded, "C-C'mon! This isn't the time to be healing me! Not when the enemy is still here!"

"The enemy!?" I quickly turned around. In the corner of the room stood a rugged older man covered in armor and wielding a sword and shield.

It was the captain of the Eternian Sky Knights, Argent Heinkel. In the 5th world, he was the one who killed Owen. Looking at me, he said in a provoking tone, "Hmph. You have no tact, interfering a fight between two soldiers." He raised his sword. As he began to swing down on Owen and me,

Someone stood in his way.

"Stop it, Sir!" Edea shouted. She had drawn out her sword and blocked Heinkel's attack.

A sharp CLASH echoed, and sparks began flying from both swords. I thanked Edea and carried Owen to the corner of the room.

Owen said to me, "I-I'm sorry... but you have to forget about me and leave. That knight, he's strong...!"

"No, this isn't a fight we can run away from. Not to me, and not to Edea!"

"What?"

Page 29

"You take a rest here. We'll deal with that knight." I looked towards Heinkel. He was scowling at Edea.

"Well look who it is. Edea the traitor. I heard everything from Ominas."

Edea responded in a low voice, "...I won't justify my betrayal. But what about you? Why are you doing this?"

"We told the King of Caldisla to hand over the Vestal, but he refused. Therefore if we hold the King hostage, we could call the Wind Vestal to us. That's all."

“Is that how the Sky Knights work...!? You would use such cowardly methods to capture Agnes that you’d involve the king, who has nothing to do with this!?”

“Oh, you don’t approve? Even though this is by the orders of your father, the Grand Marshall?”

Edea was speechless. She eventually responded, forcing out, “My father issued such orders...?”

“He said the capture of the Wind Vestal takes highest priority. It doesn’t matter how we do it.”

“...”

“Edea. This isn’t the will of just the Sky Knights. This is for the Grand Marshall, and the Duchy of Eternia. Do you not understand what it means to revolt against this purpose?” Heinkel asked in a harsh voice.

But, Edea answered as if she had settled her decision long ago. “... If that’s how the Duchy or my father wants to do things, then I can’t follow along with them. Maybe my father has some greater purpose in this, but there’s no way I can think it’s just if we’re achieving it through such inhuman methods!”

Page 30

“That’s your decision? And you’ll insist on it even fighting against us?”

“I am a knight, too. If I need to draw my sword to follow my beliefs, I won’t hold back. That’s what my father taught me.”

“Then fine. The time for words is over. We’ll reach an understanding with our swords!” Heinkel brandished his sword and swept it sideways. Edea stopped it with her blade, but was pushed back by the force of it.

“Aah!” Her shoulders banged against the wall, and she fell forward. Heinkel lumbered towards her. “Is that all you have? You may be the Grand Marshall’s daughter, but you’re still just an 18 year-old girl.” He made to pull her up.

But, it was my turn to interfere. “Wait!” I shouted, and kicked at Heinkel from the side. He stumbled, and glared at me.

“You again? You’ve done nothing but get in the way!”

“Well, that’s likely because I want to get in the way of an old fogey who should know better than to hurt a girl. It’s a man’s natural reaction.”

“Hmph, you want to joke around... fine! I’ll deal with you and Edea both!”

Page 31

Heinkel readied his sword.

Edea stood up and said, “Ringabel, the Captain is strong! Be careful!”

“Alright!” And the battle began.

Heinkel stepped forward with a grunt, and swung his sword downwards. We side-stepped out of the way, and swung our blades simultaneously, but,

“You naïve brats!” Our blows were blocked by Heinkel’s large shield. He thrust the shield out, and charged towards me.

“Whoa!?” I was sent flying, and rolled onto the floor.

Edea shouted, “See, Ringabel, you should just stand back!”

“Don’t worry about me!” I responded, and jumped back onto my feet.

Hm, Heinkel in this world seems to be stronger than I thought.

Then I’ll have to take this more seriously. Airy’s not watching now, so I can finally fight with all my strength. With a battle cry, I unleashed my dark magic powers.

“Hm!?”

The released black light flew towards Heinkel. He promptly blocked it with his shield.

Trying again, I shot out the light repeatedly. By stepping side to side, I aimed for the blind spot of his shield. Edea resolutely drew close to him and attacked.

Page 32

Before long, the shield cracked under the weight of the successive attacks. But by then, my strength was beginning to slowly fade.

D-Damn! He really is like an iron wall! I stared at Heinkel, breathing heavily. He was taking a breath, too, and looked back into my eyes.

“...Huh. It’s not often I see a wielder of the dark arts. What is your name?”

“Ringabel, ally of all beautiful women and girls. You’ve done well, yourself, being able to stand against my arts. I wouldn’t expect any less from the Captain of the Sky Knights.” I put on a bold front, but my arms felt weak, and my legs were trembling. The dark arts were powerful, but they had a definite drawback in that using them rapidly consumes your physical strength. After five bursts, my strength becomes completely exhausted.

Because I had been using my powers without much consideration, I was at my limit. I desperately tried to hide it.

Beside me, Edea continued, “But, why sir!? You were always such a brave knight. Why did you resort to such cowardly acts!?”

“It’s nothing you need to know, Edea. You were just a new recruit in the Sky Knights. As of now only we higher-ups carry out the orders—“

“I’m not gonna accept that as an answer! A knight who’s forgotten the way of knighthood is nothing more than a common thug, aren’t they? You’ve become despicable, and have no right to call yourself a knight!”

Page 33

“What!? You think I’m going to take this from a little girl!?” Heinkel angrily swung his sword, aiming for Edea’s legs.

“Watch out!” I quickly grabbed Edea and jumped out of the way. But I was a moment too late, and Heinkel’s sword caught on my leg.

“Agh!” The intense pain coursing throughout made me instinctively fall on one knee. I saw a deep cut carved into my thigh.

“Aaah! Ringabel, are you ok!?” Edea screamed.

“I-It’s just a scratch.” I gave a stiff smile. But really, the cut was deep.

Heinkel raised his voice. “...You understand, now, children. Going up against the Duchy means losing your life.”

“So you suggest we close our eyes to what the Duchy is doing?”

“You do not realize, capturing the wind vestal is the number one priority. This isn’t just for the Duchy, this is for the sake of all the people in entire world. For such a cause we may have to use cowardly methods.”

“For the world, huh...” I thought over Heinkel’s words.

Page 34

That’s right. I already know that the Duchy is fighting for the sake of the world. Their methods are different from ours, but they have the same underlying goal.

But not knowing that, I, no, we continued to fight against the Duchy. From the 5th World to the 1st World, we fought over and over, and took many lives.

I regret all that now. And still, I haven’t found a way to make any progress from it, but—

“...Regardless, I can’t lose here! Especially not in front of a lady!”

Enduring the pain, I stood up. And sent out an attack using all of my strength.

Minus Strike— a secret move of the dark arts that turns ones pain into offensive might. The strike hit Heinkel’s shield head on.

“Huh!?” Heinkel steadied the shield with both hands, and steadily took the blow, but—

With another battle cry, I put more strength into my sword. The blade cut Heinkel’s shield into two even pieces.

His iron wall defense has crumbled apart. Heinkel’s expression stiffened. Grinning, I called out beside me, “Now! Finish him, Edea!”

“Yeah!” Edea quickly ran up, and swung her blade with great force.

The attack, which she put the whole force of her weight in, split open Heinkel's armor and cut into his chest.

"Aghh!" Heinkel's body trembled, and collapsed to the ground with a thunderous sound.

"Alright!" Edea cheered. I gave her a thumbs-up.

Moaning, Heinkel tried to stand up, but it looked like his body had no more strength left. Blood flowed from the wound in his chest down his armor and onto the floor. He struggled for a while, and before long, as if he'd given up, muttered, "Have I... been defeated?"

"Yep, it's your loss, Heinkel. You better withdraw your soldiers and retreat back to the Duchy."

"Hmph. You dare have the gall to tell me to go home...? That's an impossible thing to request. I can't show my face to the Grand Marshall before finishing my task and after being defeated by children."

"Then what are you going to do? You can't fight anymore—"

"You're right. That's why you should just deliver the final blow. The weight of defeat can only be lifted through death."

His words took me aback. Edea was surprised as well, and said, "Deal the final blow? Even though the victory's already been decided!?"

"To finish off the loser is the way of the battlefield. Just how I was about to kill that captain of the guard."

Edea and I looked at Owen. His body lied limp on the ground, arms and legs still covered in blood. He must've passed out from blood loss. It didn't look life threatening, but if we had arrived one moment later, he would've been dead for sure.

"But, even so..." Edea looked confused and upset.

Heinkel said in a harsh voice, "What are you hesitating for, Edea? You wield a sword without the resolve to kill your enemy?"

"Huh...!?"

"From here on out you walk a path of endless battling. You'll probably be targeted by the Duchy's elite, all the way up to your father." Edea froze at Heinkel's words. He continued, "If you don't have the resolve to cut down your enemies, you won't be able to carry your beliefs through. We've had to cross over mountains of corpses to get here. Now, show me. Kill me and become a true knight!"

"U-Ugh...!" As if pushed by his voice, Edea gripped her sword. Panicked, I grabbed her hand.

"N-No, Edea! This isn't the right path, whatever you do don't do it!!!!"

"Huh?"

“K-Killing can’t be the only way to carry your beliefs through, right? You have to walk your own path, even if others say differently. At the end of the day, these people are still your former comrades, right!?”

“Ringabel...!” She stared at me, surprised. Still holding onto her hand, I guided her sword back into its scabbard.

Page 37

Even I don’t feel right about killing off Heinkel. He may have been our enemy, but I know for sure he’s not a bad person.

“Let Owen and the rest of the royal guard deal with Heinkel. There’s no need to kill him. Locking him up is good enough.”

“...You’re right. That’s better.”

Heinkel stared at us. “Hmph, you weaklings... You take pity on me?”

“Nothing’s worse than a guy who can’t take a little pity. Even with your cold-hearted act, you’re not gonna get any girls that way.” I said bluntly.

Heinkel smiled faintly. “What a strange man... Ringabel, was it? I’ll... remember that name...” He muttered, and collapsed, falling unconscious.

Edea and I heaved a big sigh of relief. The sound of footsteps approached us. Tiz and Agnes ran into the throne room.

“Ringabel, Edea, are you ok!?”

“How are the king and Owen!?”

I answered, “Yeah, we’re all fine. What about you guys?”

“We’re fine. We were able to heal the fallen soldiers around town.”

Page 38

Airy chimed in beside Tiz. “Gee, you’d think after such a big fight, there’d be at least one casualty.”

“Huh? There aren’t any?”

“Nope. And not just on our side, the enemy’s too. The fallen soldiers in front of the castle were all just knocked out.”

“Now that you mention it... That’s right.” Agnes said, and looked around the room. Owen and Heinkel lied unconscious. As Airy said, no one died.

Edea looked relieved, and muttered, “...It’s all because of you. Thank you, Ringabel.”

“Hm?”

“To tell you the truth, I didn’t want to kill Heinkel. I may have turned against the Duchy, but just until yesterday I was their ally. So, thank you.”

“...!” I gasped. Before, in the 5th World, numerous lives were lost in this battle. But in this world, the battle ended without one death. This may not change history, but I can definitely say this is a good change.

Page 39

So, could I keep this change going? Since I know what happens, I...

That’s when it occurred to me. I announced my revelation. “T-That’s it...! I finally found my path!”

This surprised everyone. Edea looked at me, confused. “W-What do you mean, Ringabel? Your path?”

“I mean, thanks to you guys, the path I should take has revealed itself to me! The goal of my journey!”

“Goal of your journey...?”

“I’m going to save this world in the truest sense. My way.”

This just confused everyone more. Seeing them now brought memories of our past journeys.

In the past worlds, we fought with Duchy soldiers multiple times, and sometimes took their lives. But, there were people we didn’t have to kill. Like Heinkel, Einheria, and Kamiizumi. But this will happen no longer. I didn’t want to have to repeat my actions. Killing women, especially, I absolutely despise.

So can I save the world this time without letting anyone die...?

Of course it’d be extremely difficult. The hostility between the Duchy and the Crystal Orthodoxy runs deep, and war is spreading fast around the world.

Page 40

But if I can resolve their strife completely, if I can drive away the darkness that shrouds the crystals—

Then I’d be able to honestly say I “saved the world,” wouldn’t I!?

Ah, yes, that must be it...! This is the reason I came to this world!

I’ll make this Infinite World more beautiful than any of the worlds we travelled. A world I save without anyone dying; where I build a future so that everyone can live happily. Thinking all this made me break out in laughter.

“Heh heh... Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha! I’ve got it! I’ve got it! I’ll create the happiest ending here! I’ll save everyone I can save! Especially the women!” I declared, clenching my fists.

Edea and the others just stared at me, mystified....

Update on Dec 5th: Pg 45 added. Chapter 2 Complete!

[Prologue](#) [Chapter 1](#) [Chapter 3](#)

Purple text are summaries. Black text are direct translations

Chapter 2

Swindler's kind of harsh, don't you think?

Page 1

=====

10/13 Superb weather to match my mood

And what a refreshing mood I'm feeling. The tension I'd been feeling has been finally relieved now that a purpose to my journey has revealed itself.

The ∞ symbol on Airy's wings must be a sign telling me to fill this world with my unending love. Well, maybe not, but it's a nice thought.

My love will save this world— Has there been a more beautiful tale? Even I find it moving.

Oh wait, I'm going off topic. Let me report what has happened after fighting with Heinkel.

Owen eventually woke up after being nursed to health. Given a few hours' time, he was able to walk again as normal.

Heinkel was handed over to Owen, and became a prisoner. Ominas, too, was captured by the Caldisla guard at Centro Keep. Both of them are now in jail together.



Page 2

Ringabel leaves Heinkel's fate to Owen, trusting nothing too bad will happen to him.

Ringabel decides saving the crystals takes highest priority. First up is the wind crystal. It'll be a long journey, but he's confident since he already had grown powerful enough to defeat Ouroboros. But there's still the fear of making Airy suspicious if he shows off too much power. So he's only going to get serious if the crew is in trouble.

I'm going to be the type of hero that is normally the comic relief, but when things get tough, I'll reveal my true power and gallantly save everyone. That's the type of character I want to be this time.

Girls come crawling to that kind of guy, if I'm right. It won't be too long before the Edea of this world starts falling for me. Heh heh heh...

Page 3

Chapter 2.1

A day after the fight, the crew leaves the inn.

Ringabel: “Hahaha, such lovely weather, you guys! It’s like a blessing for our journey to come!”

Tiz: “Actually, it’s pretty cloudy, Ringabel. The weather hasn’t changed since the wind stopped.”

Ringabel: “Don’t get wrapped up in the details, Tiz. We have a world to save! We won’t stop no matter what lies ahead!”

Airy remarks how high-spirited Ringabel is, to which Ringabel asks why no one else is as excited as he is. Edea reminds him that they still don’t have an airship.

Page 4

Since attacking the castle, the airship has been stationed in the lake off to the West. Its propeller is broken and can’t fly for long periods. Ringabel figures to himself that he was the one that broke it with his dark magic on the first day he was in this world. He thinks he could fix it, though.

Ringabel suggests going to the lake to beat up the remaining Duchy soldiers there.

Agnes becomes anxious. She thinks she’ll get in the way, because she doesn’t know how to fight. Tiz says the same about himself.

Page 5

Ringabel takes out the Knight and Black Mage asterisks from his pocket. He tells the crew he got them from Heinkel and Ominas. All the asterisks from the previous world were left there, so he couldn’t have offered them before.

Agnes: “I see... so if I use these, then even I can gain the power to fight? Then I want to become a knight as soon as possible.”

Ringabel: “Uh, a knight? Why do you want to be a knight, Agnes?”

Page 6

Agnes: “Because when I saw Edea using her sword, I thought she looked so cool... If I choose a job of strength like that, I can fulfill my dream of becoming stronger, can I not?”

The Agnes of this world seems more aggressive. But after some thought,

Ringabel: “No, it’s better if you weren’t a knight. You’d have to protect everyone using both hands on your shield, it’s a lot more trouble than it’s worth, y’know? We should leave that to Tiz.”

Tiz: “Hold on, Ringabel. You just trash-talked the job, and now you’re forcing it on me?”

Ringabel: [whispering] “Tiz, get with the program. This is strategy. You need to be Agnes’s knight and protect her throughout the journey. That way your appeal will go through the roof and it’ll just be a matter of time before Agnes falls for you.”

Tiz: “I-I’m not here for that kind of shifty reason...!”

Ringabel: “Oho, so we’ll just let Agnes be the knight and you be the black mage? And then Agnes will take all of the heat, and... well, I won’t stop you, but is that really what you want? To be protected by a girl? Kind of embarrassing, isn’t it? Well? Isn’t it?”

Tiz: “...Well, I guess I...”

Page 7

Tiz then convinces Agnes to become a black mage instead, saying as a vestal she should have stronger spiritual powers than others, so it’d be a good fit. Agnes reluctantly accepts.

Airy asks why Ringabel and Edea don’t want to become knights. Ringabel explains that becoming a knight changes one’s weapon specialty to western swords, while he personally prefers using katanas. Same goes for Edea. Besides, as they acquire more asterisks, they can always rethink their strategy later.

The crew then goes shopping for the proper equipment.

Page 8

Prepared for battle, the crew sets out for the lake.

Upon their arrival they hide in the bushes, on the lookout for enemies. The Eschalot lied at the end of the lake. Two archers patrolled outside the ship. They looked to be cautious of enemies, but two men was far too few to make an effective watch-guard.

Tiz suggests they had lost a lot of men from the attack on the castle, and that the crew may have a chance against them now.

Page 9

Edea warns that even though Ominas and Heinkel are down, there are still two others in the Sky Knights that could cause trouble. Holly and Barras, when together, could be stronger than Heinkel.

Ringabel doesn’t want to kill them, either, so he advises to the rest that they hurry and take the airship before Holly and Barras take action.

Airy hides in the background as usual while the crew rushes out of the woods. The two patrolling soldiers notice them right away. They aim their bows

Page 10

Ringabel orders Agnes to use her magic. She casts thunder, striking a soldier.

Agnes: "I-It worked! Lightning came out of the rod!"

Ringabel: "That's the power of the asterisk. As you gain experience, you'll be able to cast stronger magic."

Agnes: "Wow, this is amazing..."

Tiz then jumps in front, blocks enemy arrows, and tackles the remaining soldier, rendering him unconscious.

Tiz: "I-I was really able to fight...! It just naturally came to me how to use a sword and shield..."

Page 11

Ringabel: "That's right. I'm not so sure how it works myself, but that's what asterisks do. With it, you make quite a good knight, Tiz."

Tiz: "Yeah. Now I don't have to worry about getting in you or Edea's way."

Edea: "No, Tiz, this is where you say 'now I'll be able to protect Agnes!'"

Tiz: "Wh...Where is this even coming from!? How many times do I have to say that's not what I'm here for?"

Edea: "Remember during the fight with Ominas, how deathly worried you were about Agnes? You even said, 'I just thought 'I have to save Agnes!' and my body moved on its own!'"

Tiz: "Well, I meant..."

Agnes just stares blankly at him. "Um, what are you two talking about?"

Tiz: "Nothing! C'mon guys, we have to take the air—"

"What are these kids doing, putting their love troubles on display in enemy territory!?" A woman in white robes cuts Tiz off. She walks down a ramp from the airship.

Page 12

A hulking giant follows beside her. He shows a ferocious smile. "Would you look at that! It's the vestal girlie and her friends! They saved us the trouble of finding them."

It's Holly and Barras! Holly tells Edea she knows what she'd done—betray the duchy, defeat Ominas and Heinkel, and join the vestal's team. Edea mutters, "I'm gonna hear this wherever I go from now on, aren't I...? well it *is* true."

Barras: "Hey, Holly. These aren't your everyday run-of-the-mill type of kids. They beat Heinkel, after all. I thought capturing the vestal would be an easy task, but we got some strong opponents standing in our way.... My heart fuse is lit!!!"

Holly: "Shut it, Barras. It's always lit."

Page 13

Holly asks Edea if she had planned to betray the Duchy from the start. Of course not, Edea changed her mind after seeing the Sky Knight's evil ways.

Holly: "Hmm? Let me get this straight. You joined the Sky Knights, following your ideals. And now that you've actually started work, you betray your comrades because the job goes against your ideals?"

Edea: "...Y-Yes."

Holly: "Ugh, this is why I hate kids... You're spoiled! You think you're fit to work in the army!? Huh!?"

Edea: "Yelling at me isn't going to make me change my mind!"

Holly: "Hmm, so good to be young. So inexperienced, clumsy, and just utterly repulsive... Then fine, it makes no difference if you're his daughter. I'll give you a little pain to teach you the harshness of reality!"

Holly and Edea ready their weapons. But Ringabel jumps in.

Ringabel: "Hold on a moment, my beautiful madam! Or should I call you, miss?"

Everyone: "what?"

Holly: "W-What's with this kid?"

Ringabel approaches Holly with a smile.

Page 14

Ringabel: "This kid should probably introduce himself. My name is Ringabel. I am a messenger of love, destined to usher this world into an era of peace!" ... "I understand your urge to denounce Edea as a traitor, but please settle down for a moment. I can't allow two women to fight each other over a slight difference of opinions. What would you do if your gorgeous face were to be injured?"

Holly looks like she's breaking out in hives.

Holly: "I'm not a little girl. I won't be won over having my appearances praised by a man I don't know."

Ringabel: "Well then, my apologies. How about we chat over a meal sometime to get to know each other better—" Ringabel reaches for her hand, but feels murderous intent beside him.

Barras body slams Ringabel.

Page 15

Ringabel gets flown over back to Tiz and co. He got the air knocked out of him and is writhing in pain.

Tiz: “Ringabel, are you alright!?”

Edea: “I can’t believe it, are you just stupid!?”

Agnes: “Just what were you trying to do!?”

Meanwhile, Holly, still bewildered at Ringabel’s actions, casts Aero on the crew. It sends them flying right above the center of the lake. They fall into the water. Underwater, Ringabel grabs a hold of Tiz, who can’t swim due to the weight of his armor, and swims to the surface.

Page 16

Edea surfaces too. But, Agnes isn’t with them. She’s actually on land, being carried by Barras to the airship. She struggles, but it’s not accomplishing anything.

Barras: “Believe me, I’d love to battle you guys, but this here is top priority. So long, kids!”

Holly: “Edea. After the wind vestal reaches the Duchy, your punishment is next. I look forward to it.”

They enter the airship, and it takes off. It totters north, and disappears.

Page 17

Chapter 2.2

Edea (entirely) and Tiz (partially) blame Ringabel for letting Agnes get kidnapped. His flirting with Holly didn’t help. Ringabel explains that was part of his plan to befriend as many people as possible, and not kill anyone. Tiz and Edea are surprised at this revelation.

Tiz: “So that wasn’t flirting, but trying to win them over as friends?”

Ringabel: “Of course. Don’t treat me like I’m some sleazy playboy. They may have been our enemies, but they’re also Edea’s comrades. Just because we’re at odds with each other, doesn’t mean we have to be at each other’s throats. Right, Edea?”

Edea points out that Holly and Barras aren’t exactly ones to be persuaded out of their ways.

Page 18

Airy appears out of nowhere and agrees, they’re too dangerous. She saw the whole thing, and blames what happened on Ringabel. Ringabel apologizes, but questions why Airy didn’t step in to save Agnes. Airy repeats her answer of “I’m just a weak fairy!” and tells Ringabel his grand plan isn’t good. Agnes’s safety takes priority over the enemies. Ringabel is not only endangering Agnes, but the fate of the world.

Ringabel asks Tiz if he agrees with Airy.

Page 19

Tiz: "...Well, I can't allow Agnes being put in danger, because she my hope, as well as the hope of the entire world."

Airy: "Exactly! That's why—"

Tiz: "Hold on, Airy. I also can see why Ringabel's way of thinking is correct. Even if they're enemies, they have families, and people dear to them. Knowing that, killing them is almost unthinkable. If things can be resolved without killing, then I would want that."

Ringabel: "Ahh, Tiz! I knew you would understand me! We're soul brothers!"

So.... What to do now? Ringabel figures since the airship's propeller is broken, it shouldn't be able to leave the country without stopping for repairs. He suggests attacking Holly and Baras where they will stop at Lontano Villa.

Page 20

The crew heads north.

[Ringabel repeats Lontano Villa lore we already know from the game]

The sun had already set by the time they arrived at the Villa. The airship was docked on the top floor. Ringabel, Edea, and Tiz creep towards the building.

Page 21

About 10 soldiers are guarding the single bridge leading to the villa. Ringabel figures he'll have to use his dark artes, but then Tiz rushes out with his shield [I'm guessing he's still a knight], despite Ringabel trying to stop him. Tiz manages to knock one enemy soldier back.

Ringabel: "Confound it, Tiz! Wouldn't know battle tactics if it smacked him in the face."

Edea: "He's just worried about Agnes! I'm going out, too!"

Ringabel: "Hmph, is this what all youth are like... but they've got heart!"

Ringabel knocks soldiers with the back of his sword. Edea and Tiz do their own thing with their respective swords.

Page 22

All the soldiers are defeated within 20 seconds. But none of them have any fatal wounds. The fight alerted everyone else inside the villa. The crew rushes inside. Airy suddenly appears and tells them Agnes is on the top floor. She knows this because she had been scouting.

Page 23

For the first time since arriving in this world, or rather, since Airy betrayed them in the 1st World, Ringabel is thankful for Airy's existence.

Airy leads the crew through the Villa. They take care of any soldiers before they can call for backup.

The crew arrives at the top floor. But then a large figure appears from the darkness.

"Huh? I thought I saw a shining butterfly, but it's a little monster! So you brought them over to us, huh?"

"I-It's you..."

"Yo! So you guys finally arrived. We were getting tired of waiting for ya."

Page 24

It's Barras!

Chapter 2.3

Barras had been waiting on bated breath for the crew to reach them for a fight to the death over Agnes.

Tiz asks where Agnes is. Barras answers that she's locked in the room across from them with Holly.

Tiz: "...You just want to fight with us, right? Agnes has nothing to do with this, so let her go!"

Barras: "Sorry, that's out of the question."

Tiz: "Is that what Holly told you?"

Barras: "No, that's from the Grand Marshall himself."

Page 25

Barras reveals the Grand Marshall is Edea's father. Tiz is shocked. Edea tells him that it doesn't matter. She'll follow her heart even if it means fighting with her dad.

Barras: "Whaaaat? Edea, if your father were here to hear this, he'd be bawling. Such a bad daughter, not even understanding the Grand Marshall's vision."

Edea: "Vision...? What is my father's vision?"

Barras: "Huh? You really don't know? I'll tell ya... You two listen up, as well."

Barras gives an unnecessary lecture about what the Crystal Orthodoxy and Anticrystalism are.

Page 26

He explains how the crystal vestals have a special power to awaken the crystals. Tiz doesn't understand how Agnes's journey to save the world goes against the Duchy's beliefs. Barras answers that if Agnes saves the world, Crystalism will become popular again, giving the higher-ups power. The Crystalist elite kill heretics and commit fraud in order to recruit worshippers. They also were responsible for the grand ritual that almost brought an end to the world.

Page 27

Tiz is in shock. Ringabel asks Barras if this is what the Grand Marshall has told him. It was. That's why he needs to take Agnes.

Ringabel mentally concedes that some of what Barras says is true, but that's not the real reason the Grand Marshall wants Agnes. It's because if she awakens the four crystals, the barrier between worlds will be broken, and Braev knows that.

Barras wouldn't believe Ringabel if he said that, though. Nor would his friends.

Page 28

Ringabel: "Barras, I understand your point. But c'mon, what kind of grown man chases after a frail young girl? Don't you think that's an embarrassment to your status as a warrior?"

Barras: "Huh?"

Ringabel: "Maybe the Grand Marshall is correct, to some level. But what you're doing is hurting people. Not just Agnes, but dozens of innocents around the world. Do you think that's right?"

Barras: "Good point. But, I'm happy so long as I get to fight. Us battling against the whole world, in order to destroy the Orthodoxy... Just thinking about it gets my blood pumping, you know?"

Ringabel: "No, that's absurd. Fighting the higher-ups in the Orthodoxy? Fine. Kidnapping vestals? You're getting a little off track here. Is that what you want?"

Barras: "Hmm? W-well, no, but..."

Ringabel: "Of course not. So you've got all this frustration pent up, and want to come at us guns blazing. I personally don't spending some time duking it out, but before that, could you release Agnes?"

Barras hesitates. Ringabel figures he just needs a little more push, but then—

Page 29

“That’s enough.”

It’s Holly Whyte again!

Holly: “Look at this brat, trying to talk things over... I look away for one minute, and you try to seduce Barras to your side?”

Ringabel: “Seduce? I’m not really one to seduce men, but...”

Holly: “Hmph. Well you’ve done a good job seducing Edea. To think the Grand Marshall’s daughter would betray her country. You’re quite the swindler.”

Ringabel: “S-Swindler’s kind of harsh, don’t you think? I’m just trying to smother the world with my never-ending love—“

Holly: “There you go again with that nonsense! Enough with the talking! Let’s go!”

She releases a small tornado from her staff, blowing the gang away.

Page 30

They collide against the walls. Edea and Tiz were hurt worse than Ringabel.

Holly: “What are you just standing there for, Barras? Take care of our intruders.”

Barras: “Huh? O-Oh...”

Barras: “...Yeesh, what was with me earlier, talking so deep like that? I much prefer fighting without having to think so much.”

Barras says he’ll release Agnes if the crew can beat Holly and him. Ringabel reluctantly agrees.

Page 31

Struggling against Barras’s attacks, Ringabel shouts at the rest of the crew to go rescue Agnes while he takes care of the fight. After some hesitation, they begin to run away. Holly tries to stop them, but Ringabel uses his dark artes to interfere with her spell-casting. She falls to her knees, and the crew is able to slide past her. Barras is impressed at Ringabel’s ability to handle both Holly and him, but then asserts that they must defeat him here or else he’ll become a huge problem to the Duchy.

Page 32

Barras headbutts Ringabel. He then throws a dazed Ringabel against the wall, knocking the air out of him.

Barras: “You lack power! Fighting is all about muscle! You’re gonna have a heck of a time taking on both of us with your scrawny body! Probably not a good idea to let your friends leave you behind, huh?”

Ringabel: “N-Nah...! It’s better that I’m alone.” Since Airy’s no longer here, he doesn’t have to hold back. He releases more dark artes from his sword.

The unleashed black light strikes Holly and Barras like lightning, and they collapse to the ground.

Page 33

Holly: “D-Dammit...such a strange move...! It’s just like what Alternis does...!”

Ringabel: “It’s against my nature to hurt a woman, but you two are so strong, I had no choice but to get serious.

Holly: “Hm? Well, how flattering... Like you seriously think that’ll make me happy!?”

Holly heals themselves back to normal... and wakes Barras up from a sudden nap.

Barras charges at Ringabel again with a punch, but Ringabel dodges and swings his sword, which is then blocked by Barras’s arm!

Barras has a Protect buff cast on him.

Page 34

Ringabel figures he should just keep hacking away at Barras. It actually starts working. But Holly just heals him again anyway. Her magic will run out eventually, Ringabel keeps in mind.

Ringabel: “Don’t you two see now!? This is the difference in our power! If we keep fighting like this, you’ll lose your lives!”

Barras, though exhausted, is not deterred.

Page 35

Ringabel: “Why do you still fight!? No matter how much you say you love battling, this is going too far!? You’re okay with dying if it’s for the Grand Marshall’s ideals!?”

Holly: “As if a kid like you would understand! Barras and I had been fighting for the Grand Marshall since we were around 10! All to destroy that damned Crystal Orthodoxy!”

Ringabel: “But why--!?”

Holly: “Barras and I have no relatives. They were killed by the Orthodoxy elite. All the followers they let die during the Great Plague... No matter how much you say otherwise, you’ll never understand.”

Ringabel has expository flashback. 20 years ago there was a plague. The Crystal Orthodoxy decided to let those who had the disease just die in order to prevent the disease spreading.

Holly continues, saying she and Barras had been fighting for 15 years to have revenge against the Orthodoxy and to make the world a better place.

Page 36

Barras concurs and starts emitting a red aura. He had been storing power. He unleashes a flurry of punches, one of which hits Ringabel in the forehead. Ringabel’s legs begin to collapse, but he recovers, planting himself firmly on the ground. Having used up his energy, Barras’s movements have slowed. With what little strength he has left, Ringabel fires out more bolts of black light. They hit Holly and Barras.

Page 37

Holly and Barras collapse on top of each other.

Barras: “D-Damn... not even I can take two of those attacks...!” He gets up.

Holly: “Ugh, this kid disgusts me... ‘Don’t want to hurt women’ my ass!”

Ringabel: “My sincerest apologies. My body just acted on its own... What will you do now? Will you heal yourselves and try to fight again?”

Holly says no—she’s out of magic. They can’t fight anymore. She asks when Ringabel’s gonna finish them off. He tells them he doesn’t want to kill them. They look confused. This triggers a memory inside Ringabel’s mind. One that happened long before he lost his memories.

One that took place in the 6th World, where Ringabel was born.

.....

Back there, I lived as the Dark Knight Alternis Dim. ...

My body was covered by black armor. I never showed my face to anyone, and my days were filled with nothing but fighting. Even with such a strict, calculated existence, however, I had friends. One of them was Barras.

Barras and I were 5 years apart from each other, and we held different positions in the Eternian forces, but we got along somehow. We met often at the training halls and practiced together.

One day after training, Barras said,

“Hey, Alternis. If you combined my fighting skills and your dark artes, we’d make quite the deadly duo!”

Alternis: “Yeah, I can believe that,” ... “But Barras, we wouldn’t have nearly enough lives between the two of us to survive combat through our techniques.”

Barras: “So what! Fighting is all about the fire inside your heart and soul.”

Alternis: “But if you die, you won’t be able to enjoy your precious battles anymore. That ought to get you thinking about ways to stay alive.”

“Ways to stay alive? We don’t need you two to be pondering over something like that.”

Holly stands behind them. Alternis is shocked at her words, but tries to hide it.

Alternis: “P-Perhaps you’re right. We *are* soldiers. If we just think about how to survive, we won’t reach our go—“

Holly: “That’s not what I meant, you idiot. I mean *I’m* the one that should be thinking of how to keep you alive.”

Alternis: “Huh?”

Holly: “Your two’s specialty is fighting, and mine is healing. So don’t try to avoid dying. No matter how bad your wounds are, I’ll heal you. I won’t let you die if we’re fighting together.”

.....

Page 40

They never had a chance to fight together after that conversation. After Ringabel received orders to chase after Agnes, he never saw Holly and Barras. Several months later, they died when Agnes and her crew destroyed their airship.

Ringabel: "I can't... I just can't kill you guys like this!!!"

Ringabel starts crying a "flood of tears."

Barras: "Huh!? Wh-Wh-What are you crying for, man!?"

Holly: "Quit freaking me out! This kid is insane."

Ringabel: "You're the insane ones! Why do we always have to kill each other!?" ...
"You can't kill everyone you face off against! I know that more than anyone! That's why I'm going to let you live, and if possible, I want to become friends!"

Holly: "What...!"

Page 41

Holly: "Is this a joke!? Why do you want to become our friend!?"

Ringabel: "So we can save the world together. Listen, this is what I want to do: clear away the darkness that possesses the crystals, get rid of the corrupt Crystal Orthodoxy leaders, and make the Duchy get along with the other nations. We have to do all of this before the world is destroyed. That doesn't interfere with the Grand Marshall's vision, does it?"

Holly: "All of that... there's no way you can do that!"

Ringabel: "I know. Not by myself. That's why I need your help... please."

Barras: "...Holly, look. This kid's serious. He really wants to be our friend."

Holly: "So what? Are you going to betray the Duchy now like Edea?"

Barras: "I don't *want* to betray them, but I do think the Duchy's actions have been weird. They left idiots like Ominas at large, and didn't specify how exactly to accomplish our objectives. Maybe Edea left not because this kid seduced her, but because she thought the same thing as me?"

Holly?: "...Maybe so. But they're conspiring to interfere with the Grand Marshall's vision. Don't you get that?"

Barras: "Well, I don't understand *everything*, but killing kids to fulfill a vision doesn't rest easy on my conscience."

Page 42

Barras: “Also, when I look at this kid here, I sort of see a Grand Marshall from long ago.”

Holly: “How so? He looks like a mess.”

Barras: “Well, yeah, but his eyes when he talked about his own vision—they were on point. I kinda wanna see just how far he can go, y’know? If his vision is wrong, then his journey will get cut short. We can end it ourselves then.”

Holly: “...You’re too soft. But if that’s what you think...”

Holly looks at Ringabel.

Holly: “Listen up, weirdo. I understand your point. But I’m sorry, we can’t be your friends. We can’t betray the Grand Marshall.”

Ringabel: “What!? Then we’ll remain enemies!?”

Holly: “No, we’re not gonna stop you. We’ll leave the vestal-thing alone, so you can go on your journey to save the world, or whatever. Just get out of our sight. That’s the most I can allow. How about it?”

Ringabel: “Y-Yes that’s fine! Thank you!”

Success!

Page 43

The crew returns with Agnes.

Edea: “A-Amazing, Ringabel. How did you beat them...?”

Ringabel: “I didn’t ‘beat’ them. My love just touched their hearts.”

Chapter 2.4

Ringabel tells the crew what happened. Edea and Tiz are relieved Holly and Barras didn’t have to die. Agnes and Airy seem skeptical.

Page 44

Agnes can’t believe Holly and Barras would see reason, given all the mean stuff they said to her. Agnes’s face turns red, and Barras asks Holly what she did to her.

Holly: “I just teased her a little. Her entire being just reeks of the Orthodox, so I got angry. I was just trying to change her point of view.”

Agnes: “That wasn’t all! You did that one thing, and then the other, and... Agh....!”

Ringabel asks what happened, but Edea cuts him off. She tells Agnes to just let it go for now but Agnes refuses!

Holly concedes. She offers to help the crew out one time as way of an apology.

Page 45

Holly says she'll have the airship fixed and will give the crew a ride to Ancheim.

Barras: "Whoa, Holly, aren't you going too far here? The higher-ups aren't gonna just let you do this, y'know?"

Holly: "Perhaps. But the crystals need to be re-awakened, don't they? And there's no other way to get to Ancheim than with our airship. Only we can help them."

Agnes reluctantly agrees.

Edea: "Then it's decided! Our next step is to leave Caldisla and head to Ancheim!"

Update on Dec 21st: Pgs 42-43 added. Chapter 3 complete!

[Prologue](#) [Chapter 2](#) [Chapter 4](#)

Purple text are summaries. Black text are direct translations

Chapter 3

You can't buy love or compassion with money

Page 1

Oct 16th... Weather so good it's getting boring now. Boiling hot.

Barras and Holly take the crew to Ancheim on their airship. Agnes finds out that Edea is the daughter of the Grand Marshall, and Ringabel does his best to prevent this from being a huge Thing like it was in the 5th World. [there are no details to this]

After they arrive in Ancheim, Holly and Barras leave. Barras tells the crew he won't rat them out to the Duchy, BUT THEY MUST BATTLE AGAIN the next time they meet.



Page 2

Ringabel spends this whole page reminding us how bad the situation is in Ancheim, with the expensive water and harsh labor laws and corrupt government.

Hmm, the more I think about it, the worse it is. A government with no love just brings people misery. If I ever became the king, this country would be full of nothing but love....

Since the crew needs water too, they decide to head to the Oasis first.

Page 3

Chapter 3.1

The crew arrives at the Oasis. Edea and Airy celebrate, Tiz confesses he didn't think they would make it, and Agnes stumbles towards the water. Everyone takes a drink.

Page 4

Ringabel suggests they take a dip. Everyone agrees and they head in, but Ringabel stops them because they still have all their clothes on! That would halve their enjoyment, and make their clothes all heavy with water on the trip back.

Edea: "What are we supposed to do then, get in naked?"

Ringabel: "That'd be ideal, but I get the feeling suggesting that won't be met with approval. But that's why I prepared these."

He pulls out a variety of swimsuits from his bag. There are multiple types of girl swimsuits.

Tiz: "Good thinking, Ringabel! Did you buy these at Ancheim?"

Ringabel: "I suppose you could say that."

Page 5

Edea: "I get the feeling I'm being played by Ringabel, but I agree the offer seems too tempting to refuse in this heat."

Agnes: "This is my first time wearing a swimsuit.... My sincere thanks."

Ringabel bought some swimming trunks for himself, too. Tiz and Airy ask where their swimsuits are.

Ringabel: "Sorry, but I spend so much on the girls', I ran out of money for yours. But, you're a man, so you can just wear your boxers. And Airy, they did not have swimsuits for fairies. Please forgive me."

Tiz: "T-This is discrimination...."

Airy: "You're so rude!!"

Airy swings her fists on Ringabel, but this amount of pain is nothing to me, now.

Page 6

They get changed and jump in the water.

Ringabel analyzes Edea's and Agnes's choice of swimsuit for 7 sentences.

Edea starts a splash fight with Agnes. Ringabel and Tiz watch them from afar.

Ringabel: "Have you ever seen anything so beautiful in your life, Tiz? This is paradise."

Tiz: "...Sure is."

Ringabel: "W-Wow, so honest. And look at your face, beet red! You creep."

Tiz: "W-What are you talking about!? You started this conversation!"

Tiz has on a pair of grey trunks. I have a white speedo. [don't ask where tiz's came from.

The jpn word could either mean swimsuit or boxers. The jpn word for Ringabel's swimsuit is literally "bikini" so maybe Tiz has Ringabel's swimsuit and Ringabel is wearing one of the girl bottoms he brought since he had more than 2 in his bag. But it also doesn't clarify whether he's just wearing the bottom or the whole suit. I originally just posted the direct translation b/c I thought it was funny how bare-bones this description is, but the more I read it, the more confused I get]

Ringabel sees Airy standing on the shore.

Page 7

He asks her why she won't come in the water. She doesn't want to get her wings wet. She's still mad at Ringabel though for his treatment. He tries to placate her with promises he'll get her a swimsuit next time. He realizes how different their relationship has become compared to previous worlds. Airy now is more human-like, and she and Ringabel seem closer. He can't imagine her being an evil monster, but then again, he didn't expect that of the first Airy either.

Suddenly, Edea cries, "H-Huh!? What happened to the stuff I put over there!?"

Page 8

Both Agnes and Edea's baggage is gone, including their regular clothes. Agnes suspects Ringabel.

Ringabel: "Would a gentleman such as myself really stoop that low!? Besides, I was here in the water the whole time!"

Tiz notices his and Ringabel's stuff is gone, too

Ringabel senses someone behind the trees. Who could it be.....

Page 9

Holy crap it's Jackal. Ringabel completely forgot he existed...

Jackal pulls his knife on the crew. He tells them to behave or else they'll lose their lives, too.

Ringabel: "Hm, it doesn't matter how many daggers you have, you can't beat four against one."

Jackal: "'snot just me, you idiot. We have twenty."

Jackal's lackeys appear from the trees. He asks what the crew can do with no weapons.

Agnes: [ANGRY] "There are things I can do even without weapons.... Fire!!"

Page 10

Fire comes out of Agnes's hand! Jackal did not expect this, so he orders his whole team to leave. They do, and the crew's baggage goes with them.

Tiz rallies the crew to chase after them, but the sand is too hot to walk on!

Agnes uses Blizzard to cool down the sand.

Page 11

The crew begins their chase. Airy appears, returning from a scouting flight, and tells them Jackal and his gang ran off into some ruins a ways away.

Ringabel: "Nice going, Airy! You *can* be useful after all!"

Airy: "Hmph, it's not like I did it for you. It's just this whole dumb situation is taking time away from awakening the crystals."

They head to the ruins.

Chapter 3.2

Ringabel explains how the ruins are a grave for a king filled with mazes and traps. Jackal and his gang must've made a base out of it.

Page 12

The crew takes out some of Jackal's lackeys using sticks they find on the ground on their way deeper into the ruins.

Ringabel: "This would make a great picture if I do say so myself—us causing a scene in a thief hideout while wearing nothing but swimsuits and boxers" [see, here he uses a word exclusively for underwear so Tiz doesn't have a swimsuit? But 'bikini,' the word Ringabel uses to describe his own getup, is exclusively for girls. BUT STILL when Ringabel says he bought himself a swimsuit, he calls them swim shorts. The mystery deepens]

Edea: "Do you think we enjoy doing this!? We're not trying to look cool! This is embarrassing! We need to get our clothes back ASAP!"

They make it to the open room with piles of treasure and antiques. That's what it seems like at first, but Ringabel figures it's actually all garbo.

Jackal appears from the shadow of the garbo pile. "Huh.....? Did you guys seriously chase us all the way down here?"

Page 13

Agnes: "You made us chase after you! Why are you doing such cruel things!? We could've died in the desert without our stuff!"

Jackal: "Urghh shaddup. Noisy cow."

Ringabel(?): "Hold it, Jackal! Agnes is anything but a cow! Get your facts straight!"

Agnes: "U-Um, well that I don't care about... Just please return our things."

Jackal: "Nah. If you don't want to get killed, just shut up and leave."

Edea: "You're gonna have to try harder than that to get rid of us! If you don't return our things, we're gonna get mad, and you're gonna regret it!"

Jackal: "I'm amazed you're not ashamed to show off that gross malnourished body in that skimpy swimsuit. I'm gonna die of laughter."

Edea is shocked into silence.

Tiz: "Your body doesn't dictate what you wear! These girls don't want to be dressed like this, but you gave them no choice! At least give us our clothes back, first!"

Jackal: "Hm, now I got this dumbass tryhard kid coming at me. In his boxers."

Tiz: "I-I told you, my looks don't matter here! Just give us our clothes—"

Page 14

Jackal threatens Tiz with his dagger.

Jackal: "I told you to shut up. I'll have to kill you now."

Tiz: "Kill me...? You kill when you get caught? That's your way of doing things?"

Jackal: "Ha! You know nothing about real pain. I'll teach you something"

Jackal delivers his "2 types of people" speech, then goes on about his terrible past. [Tiz and Agnes seem perfectly calm now to follow along with his story.]

Page 15

Tiz responds like in-game, asking about Jackal reuniting with his parents, saying that he can't not bother trying and just rot away as a thief, etc.

Ringabel reminds us Tiz is saying these heartfelt lines in his underwear.

Jackal responds the same as in-game as well, and calls Khint over.

Page 16

A wild Khint appears.

Khint: "... Why aren't these people wearing any clothes, Jackal."

Jackal: "Th-They're just intruders, Boss. I want you to kill their asses. You'll be paid."

Khint: "I have many questions, but they can wait. This is our contract, after all."

Khint draws his sword. Agnes begins to cast magic, but Khint lightly grazes her with his sword. Agnes can no longer speak.

Page 17

He used Silence! Ringabel begins casting his dark artes, but Khint pounces!

Ringabel tries to dodge, but Jackal trips him. Khint's sword touches Ringabel's bare arm. Ringabel begins to fall asleep.

Jackal: "In this case you won't ever wake up. Because you'll be killed in your sleep."
[that line would have been cool if you didn't explain the joke, Jackal]

Page 18

With the last of his strength, Ringabel tells the others to run away. But he loses consciousness before hearing their responses.

PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR A FLASHBACK.

This dream takes place before Ringabel arrived in the Infinite World. It was after the crew first arrived in the 1st World.

Airy had transformed into her monster form. She's giving her self-introduction speech.

Page 19

Airy compliments the crew for being such good obedient pawns (like in the game). But now Ringabel speaks up.

Ringabel: "I had to have noticed you...! I've known everything all along!"

Airy: "You think being an anomaly makes you a destined hero? A lot of confidence coming from a man who feels terror just from my presence!"

Ringabel: "Ugh...! I.... I...!" He draws his sword and charges at her.

Airy raises her voice.

"—bel! Wake up, Ringabel!"

Page 20

The first things Ringabel sees is the ∞ sign on Airy's wings.

Airy: "Oh, you're finally awake! A lot of help you've been, sleeping in the middle of a fight!"

Ringabel: "Uh, huh...? H-How long have I been asleep...? What's going on...?"

Airy: "Just 30 seconds! The fight's still going on! Everyone's in trouble!"

Ringabel sees Khint closing in on the crew.

Edea: "D-Don't go over there! Come back here!"

Tiz: "Stop! I'm the one you're mad at, right!? Leave the girls alone!"

Agnes: [imagine the sound of opening your mouth trying to speak but you have silence cast on you so it's just guttural noises]

The crew's throwing garbage/rubble at Khint.

Airy: "This is bad, Ringabel. You have to save Agnes! If Agnes dies, the world will be destroyed!"

Ringabel: "Yeah... Of course."

He stands up.

Ringabel: "Hey. Guys. Hands off my friends."

Page 21

Jackal and Khint turn around. But Ringabel, who had just woken up from a magic-induced sleep 10 seconds ago, is now alert+coordinated enough to shoot balls of darkness fast enough that J+K are too slow to react and get blasted and the battle ends. I guess Ringabel IS level 99 by now.

Edea: "T-Thank you, Ringabel! You really saved us!"

Ringabel: "Yeah, I was just in time... Thanks to you, Airy. I appreciate it."

He pats Airy on the head.

Airy: "W-what are you doing, creepo! I just helped because Agnes was in danger!"

Ringabel: "I know, but still. I have to thank you."

WHAT IRONY THAT A CHARACTER WHO TRIES TO KILL ME THEN SAVES ME, Ringabel realizes.

Chapter 3.3

The crew ties Jackal and Khint up, then tries to retake their stuff.

Page 22

But their things have been hidden by Jackal, so they can't find them! First, they find an echo herb to heal Agnes's silence. Edea takes Khint's scimitar. She asks what to do with Jackal and Khint.

Airy: "We kill them, of course!"

Ringabel: "What!? Don't be so morbid. You're scaring me."

Airy: "These people tried to kill Agnes and the rest of you! This situation is all their own fault! It's dangerous to leave these fiends alive. If they make it out of here, they could come back and seek revenge!"

Suddenly the crew senses more people from behind. Tiny figures appear.

Page 23

"Stop! Don't bully Mr. Jackal!"

It's a 7-year old boy and girl! Jackal freaks out.

Jackal: "Idiots! Get out of here!"

Boy: "No! We have to save you, Mr. Jackal!"

The boy has a dagger and the girl has a stick.

Tiz: "U-Um, who are you kids?"

Boy: "I'm Mr. Jackal's kid!"

Tiz: "Kid? Huh? Like, a son? Jackal's son?"

Girl: "Our parents abandoned us, but Mr. Jackal saved us. We're still alive now because of Mr. Jackal. So we have to return the favor...!"

Edea: "Hmmm, so he took you in and raised you? Looks like you do have some good in you, Mr. Jackal."

Jackal: "...Shut it. And I'm only 16, so cut the Mister crap out."

Page 24

Tiz assures the kids they aren't gonna kill Jackal. Jackal tells the kids to beat it, and they do.

Agnes asks if their situation is why Jackal steals, and Jackal explains how there are too many orphans and you can't get enough money to feed them through acceptable means. Agnes then asks Khint what his deal is, but Khint refuses to explain himself.

Page 25

Edea doesn't accept that. Khint asserts he's only in it for the money. Edea is disgusted, but Ringabel tells her he might need the money for like..... his sick daughter or something.

Khint: "You.... How could you know that!?"

Ringabel lies and says he was just leading Khint on. But now that he admitted to it, Khint should tell his story so the crew can understand or else they'll report him to "the officials." [did he forget Ancheim's government hired Khint too?? AND WHY DOES THIS MATTER KHING COULD JUST MAKE UP A STORY TO GET YOUR PITY]

Page 26

Khint explains that his daughter has suffered from a severe illness since birth. She's receiving care in the Eternian hospitals, but it's really expensive.

Edea asks why he's a magic swordsman, but that's TMI for Khint. He will say no more.

Tiz concludes Jackal and Khint can't be bad people! Why can't we all be friends?

Ringabel explains to Jackal about how the crystals have been shrouded in darkness and Agnes needs to awaken them but the Duchy's being difficult.

But Jackal cuts him off b/c Ringabel's boring as hell.

Jackal: "...So, the point is you want us to help."

Page 27

Ringabel: "Yeah. It's a rough journey we're on. We've been managing on our own, but we can never have too many friends. So I'd appreciate it if you give us our stuff back."

Jackal: "I get it. But, sorry... I can't do that for you."

Jackal frees himself from the ropes.

Ringabel: "Wh-what!? How did the ropes--!?"

Jackal: "What are you surprised for, you dumbass? I'm a thief, remember? Thought I couldn't untie a little rope?"

Ringabel: "Th-Then why were you sitting there listening to us!?"

Jackal: "Buying time to recover my strength. Right, Boss?"

Khint stands up no problem. While everyone stares at him, Jackal takes back Khint's scimitar and returns it to him. The crew re-arms themselves with sticks.

Airy: "Ringabel, look, I told you! You can't get through to these guys!"

Page 28 [got a request to fully translate 28+29 for FULL DETAIL ON RINGABEL CRYING]

Jackal: "Yeah, pretty much. I know you're all arms-open about this being friends thing, but it was never gonna work from the beginning."

"What!? Why!?"

"If I help you guys, I can't do my job at the same time. What am I gonna do about paying for their food? While I'm off saving the world with you guys, the kids are gonna starve."

"Oh....!"

"Same with Khint's daughter. Khint's services may cost a shit-load, but it's to raise money for his daughter's treatment. Are you guys gonna foot the bill?"

"..." As the words fell on me, I said nothing. Jackal continued.

"You understand now? Money's important to us. We don't care about some journey to save the world. Seems like nothing more than a joke for people who got nothing better to do. Our enemy isn't the Duchy, or the darkness that possesses the crystals. It's harsh reality."

"...I see." I muttered, head hung low. My chest ached with sympathy for them.

Because I was an orphan, too. I was abandoned in the slums beneath Florem. I don't remember my parents' faces anymore. I was all on my own, living off of muddy water and sand.

Page 29

All the way until the Grand Marshal took me in and I became a dark knight for the Duchy....

I had eventually found a way to live. But one difference could've turned me into someone like Jackal. I understand his solitude, his anger, and his thirst for everything. I may not agree with his actions, but I understand them.

Sniff....am I going to cry again...!?

Tears flowed out of me.

Edea looked at me. "R-Ringabel, why are you crying?"

"It's nothing, pay me no mind." I frantically wiped my tears away.

It seems that ever since I came to this world, I've been crying a lot more often. Is it because my memories are back, and I'm aware of my role and self that my inner feelings surface easier?

Well, Alternis, too, is a pretty emotional guy despite his cool attitude.

Now that I think about it, after Edea rejected him when he suddenly proposed to her during a battle, he became extremely enraged, actually showing emotion for once. What a weirdo. But that's another version of me. It's weird to think of myself like that, but him and I are all an iteration of one person.

But, regardless of my past, my dream now is this: to save the world without having to kill anyone, no matter how difficult it may be.

Think, Ringabel! How can we come to an understanding with Jackal and Khint!?

Page 30

Ringabel throws his stick away. Weapons means distrust! Ringabel doesn't want to fight! Jackal is not impressed. Ringabel thinks harder. He needs to show Jackal that he has no weapons on him at all.

Ringabel: "If this is how it's going to be, Jackal, then here! Let me show you my love!"
He takes his swimsuit off.

Page 31

This is the "ultimate form of love."

Jackal: "The hell it is! You're just a goddamn pervert!"

Khint: "...Seeing something this obscene makes me want to murder, not love."

Agnes falls to the ground. "You would go this far to make these people your friends....!?"
What kind of strange hobby..."

Ringabel: "This is not a hobby. I am putting aside my shame and exposing myself. If we can reach an understanding by exposing myself, then I'll do it as much as it takes!"

Everyone apparently: "Stop it!! Put your damn pants on!!"

Ringabel clothes himself and asks Jackal to hear him out. Jackal agrees if it means he won't have to witness that again, but restates his "our enemy is reality" mantra. [honestly do not ask me what taking his pants off accomplished]

Page 32

Ringabel proposes he gives them enough money to deal with their problems, then they can be friends!

Of course Ringabel spent all his money on the swimsuits, so he asks the crew to brainstorm with him. Agnes thinks Ringabel's full of baloney and J+K's troubles are unimportant. Ringabel gives the "how can we save the world if we can't save the people in front of us" spiel.

Page 33

Agnes asks Tiz and Edea what they think. Tiz agrees with Ringabel because he doesn't see Jackal's problems as irrelevant to himself (since he also now has no family). Edea believes even though J+K are black now, they could become white given the right course of events, so she agrees with Ringabel, too. Agnes is disappointed in their leniency.

Ringabel looks through his journal for ideas.

Page 34

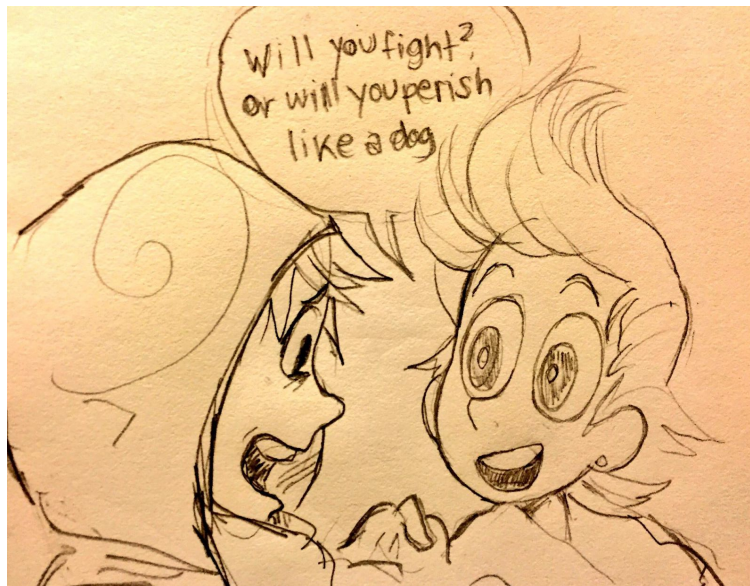
Ringabel suggests the novel idea of stealing from rich people instead of poor schmucks like the crew. He shows everyone pages about Khamer and Profiteur, explaining that they're the main cause of Ancheim's poverty.

Page 35

Jackal tells Ringabel that he and Khint are basically Khamer and Profiteur's underlings.

Ringabel: "Probably strange to go against your bosses, right? But if those two are left at large, Ancheim's poverty won't change for the better, and the number of abandoned kids will increase. Do we need any more miserable kids than we already have now? But, if you stop the problem at its source, it'll make a huge impact on the world, don't you agree?"

Jackal: ".....!"



Ringabel:

[literally ringabel says "will you live your whole life owned like a pet dog or will you bite off the chains that bind you LIKE A JACKAL." Yes he literally uses Jackal's name over the kanji for 'wild dog/wolf']

Jackal: "...Ringabel, was it? I thought you were just a pervert, but you know how to talk your way out of any situation."

Ringabel: "I'd prefer you say I'm brimming with love. That's what dictates my words and actions."

Jackal digs Ringabel's idea and Khint will do whatever Jackal wants.

Page 36

Edea is concerned with the gray-approaching-black-ness of Ringabel's idea. Ringabel tells her to chill with the black and white ideology. Agnes and Airy want to get this over with.

They all begin planning their heist. Jackal returns the crew their things.

Page 37

The crew changes out of their swimming suits. Everyone huddles together to make a plan. This is the plan:

The crew will reveal Khamer+Profiteur's relationship to the people. Profiteur will freak out and abandon Khamer. During this chaos, Khint and Jackal will steal the stored goods.

Everyone leaves to set the plan in motion.

Chapter 3.4

Khamer gathers the people to carry out one of his many speeches. But the Vestal's gang is here to crash the party!

Page 38

Edea accuses Khamer of his crimes, partnering with Profiteur to raise the price of water and control the people. Khamer demands proof. "When did I do such a thing? What second of what minute of what hour!?"

Ringabel reveals a paper that records the receipt of bribe allowing Profiteur to monopolize water, and another that proves Profiteur made a deal with a thief gang to jump on people at the oasis. The papers were stolen by Jackal.

Page 39

Khamer reminds the people that he's pushing Ancheim into the future.

Agnes asks the people to choose who they want to side with. The crowd slowly leans towards Agnes. Khamer is not happy.

Page 40

Ringabel gives Jackal and Khint, who are hiding away from the crowd, a hand signal.

Soon after, in Profiteur's HQ, Profiteur is frantically packing his things, calling Khamer an idiot for losing to the vestal. He had watched what happened from the top floor.

He's had enough of Ancheim, and plans to move somewhere else and start his business anew. He's about to leave when he remembers one last thing. He activates some mechanism on the wall and out comes a small safe.

Page 41

It's some kind of gem! It's worth the majority of his wealth. This is what Profiteur explains to the inquirers behind him. They then put him to sleep.

Chapter 3.5

well uh....THERE YOU GO. KHAMER+PROFITEUR ARE DEALT WITH IN 3.5 PAGES. Everything's good now. Prime Minister's taking over. People are happy. The crew is discussing this the next day at the oasis.

Page 42

Airy complains about what a waste of time this has been. Ringabel does not care. He lets Jackal and Khint have the gem, in exchange for the crew having the time mage and merchant asterisks that Jackal stole.

Ringabel and Jackal have a love fest complimenting each other.

Jackal: "...Hey, Ringabel. You've done a lot of good."

Page 43

Ringabel: "Where's this coming from? I'm not sure how I feel about being complimented by guys."

Jackal: "Please, listen to yourself. Weren't you the one saying earlier how it's good to broaden your horizons? [Ringabel said this to Edea on pg 36] If you ever need people like us again, just let us know, and we'll do anything we can to help."

Khint nods. "...Assuming we get paid." RINGABEL SEES WARMTH IN KHINT'S EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME end chapter.....